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August 8, 2018

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the Florida-Alabama Transportation Planning Organization (FL-AL TPO), please accept this letter of support for the 2018 BUILD Grant application by Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). We share our resounding support to the collaborative effort to add additional capacity along US98 from Bayshore Road to Portside Drive.

We understand how this project will benefit all the activities in the east and west portions of the region. The project will provide the following:

1. Improve traffic congestion and quality of life for all employees who live in mid and south Santa Rosa Okaloosa County communities, and commute to east and west in the region.
2. Support the military community who is also negatively impacted both moving employees, and quickly fulfilling essential missions, due to traffic-backups
3. Improve safety and hurricane evacuation routes
4. More efficiently allow our visitors to quickly and smoothly arrive to their final destinations on the coasts.

The FL-AL TPO endorses the goals and plans envisioned for the SR30(US98) corridor. We are prepared to cooperate with FDOT in development and implementation of this project for the mutual benefit of travelers throughout Santa Rosa County. The FL-AL TPO is excited to collaborate with the entire FDOT team and all other project partners.

Thank you for your consideration of this ATCMTD grant request from FDOT. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact FL-AL TPO staff. Ms. Mary Beth Washnock, West Florida Regional Planning Council Transportation Planning Manager, may be reached at 850-332-7976 x. 228 or via email at Marybeth.Washnock@WFRPC.org

Sincerely,



Jeff Bergosh
Chairman, FL-AL TPO



Staff to TPO

“...planning for the future transportation needs of the Pensacola FL-AL Urbanized Area...”