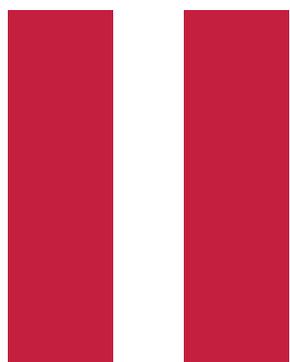




BUILDING a Better  
Howard Street

# APPENDIX II



# APPENDIX II

Letters of Support



CITY OF BALTIMORE

CATHERINE E. PUGH, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Michelle Pourciau, Director  
417 E. Fayette Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

July 10, 2018

Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: BUILD Request – BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project**

Dear Secretary Chao:

Baltimore City Department of Transportation is pleased to offer its support to the Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA) for their Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant application for the BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project in Baltimore, Maryland. This transformative investment will result in quicker, more reliable service for Light RailLink transit riders and enhance safety for all of Howard Street's users, all the while laying the groundwork for redevelopment along this historic retail corridor.

Rail replacement and realignment will allow MDOT MTA to operate at higher speeds through the corridor, avoid crashes and injuries, reduce interruptions to service, decrease noise nuisances from horns and wheel squeals, and enhance access to nearby jobs and cultural attractions. Investment in pedestrian amenities and a refreshed streetscape focused around the connection between Metro SubwayLink and Light RailLink will pair with local efforts to update building façades, providing an enhancement of the Howard Street commercial corridor.

After many years of working to reinvigorate the project area, stakeholders along the corridor are beginning to see momentum build with successful recently completed projects and several more currently under development. The *BUILDing a Better Howard Street* scope grew out of collaborative efforts between MDOT MTA, the Baltimore City Department of Transportation, the Downtown Partnership, the Baltimore Development Corporation, Department of Planning, institutions and businesses in the Howard Street corridor.

Baltimore City Department of Transportation is committed to supporting the Howard Street enhancements through future upgrades to the city conduit system equivalent to an in-kind contribution of \$6 million. This expanded capacity will enhance the ability of Baltimore City to attract new developments to the Howard Street Corridor.

Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary

Page 2

July 10, 2018

Baltimore City Department of Transportation appreciates your strong consideration of this MDOT MTA application as it is a multi-disciplinary improvement that addresses infrastructure challenges allowing the region's historic retail epicenter to thrive again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michelle Pourciau". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michelle Pourciau

Director



July 6, 2018

Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: BUILD Request – BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) is pleased to offer its support to the Maryland Department of Transportation – Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) for their Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant application for the BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project in Baltimore, Maryland. This transformative investment will result in quicker, more reliable service for Light RailLink transit riders and enhance safety for all of Howard Street’s users, all the while laying the groundwork for rapid redevelopment along this historic retail corridor.

By pairing much-needed state of good repair and safety improvements with utility upgrades and improved pedestrian amenities, this project provides a generational opportunity to revitalize the area. After many years of working to reinvigorate the project area, development momentum is building, with ten different projects worth over \$150 Million of private investment under construction or in the development pipeline that will reinvigorate the corridor with new residential and commercial uses.

The *BUILDing a Better Howard Street* scope grew out of collaborative efforts between MDOT MTA, the Baltimore City Department of Transportation, the Downtown Partnership, the Baltimore Development Corporation, and other corridor institutions and businesses to develop a program that addresses many of the key infrastructure issues in the Howard Street corridor and will help to foster the continuing economic revitalization of this important part of Baltimore.

BDC is committed to supporting MTA throughout the design and implementation of the project to ensure that the improvements can be made quickly and with minimal disruption to the business community. In addition, BDC stands ready to deploy \$1,000,000 for stabilization, rehabilitation, and upgrades to the historic properties along this corridor, to reduce vacancy and blight, and strengthen local businesses.

BDC appreciates your strong consideration of this MDOT MTA application as it is a multi-disciplinary improvement that addresses infrastructure challenges allowing the region's historic retail epicenter to thrive again.

Sincerely,



William H. Cole  
President & CEO

July 6, 2018

Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: BUILD Request – *BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project***

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Downtown Partnership of Baltimore (DPOB) is pleased to offer its support to the Maryland Department of Transportation – Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) for their Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant application for the *BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project* in Baltimore, Maryland. This transformative investment will result in quicker, more reliable service for Light RailLink transit riders and enhance safety for all of Howard Street’s users, while simultaneously laying the groundwork for rapid redevelopment along this historic retail corridor.

DPOB oversees the Downtown Management Authority (DMA), Baltimore’s oldest and largest business improvement district. We are the state’s largest employment center accounting for 119,000 jobs dispersed among diverse industry sectors. Downtown Baltimore is also proud to serve as a multi-modal transportation hub upon which many of Downtown’s workers rely.

Since 1990, DPOB has been deeply invested in the redevelopment of the Howard Street corridor, once Baltimore’s premier shopping destination. In addition to providing this area retail recruitment services, promoting its cultural institutions, and conducting clean & sweep operations, DPOB also partners with the Maryland Department of Housing & Community Development to rehabilitate vacant or underutilized structures via a Façade Improvement Program. Accordingly, DPOB has provided tens of thousands of dollars to structural rehabilitation projects on Howard Street throughout the years. Recognizing the importance of this once-in-a-generation opportunity, DPOB is furthermore willing to commit an additional \$30,000 as part of MDOT MTA’s grant application.

The *BUILDing a Better Howard Street* scope grew out of collaborative efforts between MDOT MTA, the Baltimore City Department of Transportation, DPOB, the Baltimore Development Corporation, and other corridor institutions and businesses. This program has been meticulously developed to address many of the key infrastructure challenges in the Howard Street corridor and will help foster the continuing economic revitalization of Downtown Baltimore.

DPOB greatly appreciates your consideration of this MDOT MTA application.

Sincerely,



Kirby Fowler  
President



LARRY HOGAN  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MARYLAND  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

July 13, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to offer my strong support for the Maryland Department of Transportation's (MDOT) four applications for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant funding. These important projects advance critical state and national economic development and infrastructure objectives.

The four projects include the following:

**MDOT State Highway Administration (SHA), *Making Way for Economic Growth & Safety* project:** MDOT SHA is seeking a grant in fulfillment of an initiative to leverage other non-federal funds to address critical safety concerns and operational capacity needs along the I-81 designated freight corridor in the rural, Appalachian region. The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck negatively affecting the movement of freight in a corridor estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. In 2016, MDOT broke ground on Phase 1, which was fully funded through a combination of \$65 million in state funding and federal formula funds. Receipt of this grant funding will position the I-81 Corridor as a national asset for freight movement for the next several decades.

**MDOT Maryland Port Administration (MPA), *Seagirt Berth 3 Deepening* project:** MDOT MPA is seeking a grant to provide an additional deep draft berth at the Port of Baltimore's Seagirt Marine Terminal. The project's proposed improvements will significantly benefit the nation and region by expanding Seagirt's berth capabilities, allowing continued international trade growth by providing an additional berthing area for the new and larger deep-draft vessels.

Without the additional deep berth, cargo cannot be handled in the most efficient manner possible, and in many cases must move through other port complexes in areas already grappling with severe congestion, adversely impacting inland distribution costs, the environment, safety on our roadways, and surface degradation.

**MDOT Maryland Transit Administration (MTA), *BUILDing a Better Howard Street* project:** MDOT MTA is seeking a grant to deliver repair and safety improvements, utility upgrades, and pedestrian amenities along the Howard Street corridor in Baltimore. The project's proposed improvements will result in faster, more reliable service for RailLink transit riders, enhance pedestrian safety along Howard Street, and lay the groundwork for rapid redevelopment along this historic Baltimore retail corridor. The project is a result of collaborative efforts between MDOT MTA, the Baltimore City Department of Transportation, the Downtown Partnership, the Baltimore Development Corporation, and other corridor institutions and businesses.

**MDOT Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA), *I-95/Belvidere Road Interchange* project:** MDOT MDTA, in partnership with Cecil County, is seeking a grant to construct an interchange at I-95 and Belvidere Road. The project's proposed improvements will facilitate ongoing and planned economic development in this rural Maryland county by attracting major new businesses, while addressing the resulting increases in traffic volumes along I-95. The project will provide warehouses and distribution centers crucial direct access to the East Coast's ports, airports, and freight hubs, which is critical to our nation's global competitiveness.

I strongly support these grant applications and urge you to award the requested BUILD funds to these vital, transformative projects. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Hogan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Larry" and the last name "Hogan" clearly distinguishable.

Larry Hogan  
Governor

CC: Secretary Pete K. Rahn, Maryland Department of Transportation



CATHERINE E. PUGH  
MAYOR

*100 Holliday Street, Room 250  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202*

July 17, 2018

Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary  
U. S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: BUILD Request – BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project**

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to offer my strong support to the Maryland Department of Transportation – Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA) for its Better Utilization Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant application for Baltimore’s Howard Street project. This project will result in faster, more reliable transit service and will enhance safety along Howard Street, while laying the groundwork for rapid transit and redevelopment along this historic retail corridor.

Baltimore City agencies and corridor institutions and businesses have been working closely with MDOT MTA to develop a program that addresses many of the key infrastructure issues along the Howard Street corridor. We have been working to reinvigorate this project area with recently completed developments and several more projects under construction. Residents and stakeholders are beginning to see progress. By pairing much needed repair and safety improvements with utility upgrades and improved pedestrian amenities, this BUILD project provides a generational opportunity to revitalize the area.

As Mayor of Baltimore City, I can attest to the importance of this project in furthering the economic success of our region. I appreciate your strong consideration of our MDOT MTA application for a 2018 BUILD grant.

Sincerely,

Catherine E. Pugh  
Mayor  
Baltimore City

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 2, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington DC 20590

**RE: 2018 BUILD Grant Application for BUILDing a Better Howard Street**

Dear Secretary Chao:

We write today in support of the application for a Better Utilizing Infrastructure to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant for the BUILDing a Better Howard Street project submitted by the Maryland Department of Transportation's (MDOT) Maryland Transit Administration (MTA). The BUILDing a Better Howard Street project would be a transformative investment that would create faster, more reliable public transit service for light rail riders while enhancing safety and supporting economic redevelopment along the historic Howard Street corridor.

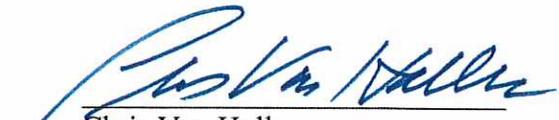
By pairing much-needed state of good repair and safety improvements with utility upgrades and improved pedestrian amenities, this project would provide a generational opportunity to revitalize the surrounding area. Rail replacement and realignment will allow MTA to operate at higher speeds through the corridor, improve safety, reduce interruptions to service, decrease noise nuisance, and enhance access to nearby jobs and cultural attractions. Investment in pedestrian amenities and a refreshed streetscape focused around the connection between the Baltimore Metro SubwayLink and Light RailLink will complement local efforts to update building façades, supporting vibrant commercial activities. And upgrades to the utilities beneath Howard Street will help support achievement of the high-density, mixed-use and residential development envisioned by the city's zoning ordinance in a corridor that is close to downtown, the Baltimore stadiums, three world-class medical centers, two public universities, and a growing community of artists.

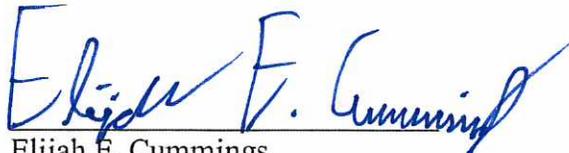
After many years of working to reinvigorate the project area, stakeholders along the corridor are beginning to see momentum evidenced by several recently completed developments and new ones under construction. The BUILDing a Better Howard Street project's scope grew out of collaborative efforts among MDOT, MTA, the Baltimore City Department of Transportation, the Downtown Partnership, the Baltimore Development Corporation, and other corridor institutions and businesses.

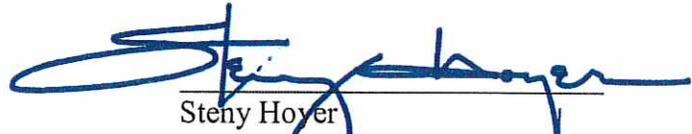
We are pleased to endorse this multi-disciplinary project and are confident that addressing these infrastructure challenges will enable the region's historic retail epicenter to thrive again. It is with the above in mind that we hope the MTA's application for BUILD funding for the BUILDing a Better Howard Street will receive every reasonable consideration.

Sincerely,

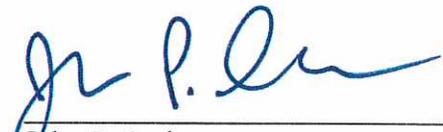
  
Ben Cardin  
U.S. Senator

  
Chris Van Hollen  
U.S. Senator

  
Elijah E. Cummings  
Member of Congress

  
Steny Hoyer  
Member of Congress

  
C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger  
Member of Congress

  
John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress

  
Andy Harris, M.D.  
Member of Congress

  
John K. Delaney  
Member of Congress

  
Anthony G. Brown  
Member of Congress

  
Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress

cc: Secretary Pete K. Rahn, Maryland Department of Transportation



Bernard C. "Jack" Young

*President*

Baltimore City Council

---

100 N. Holliday Street, Room 400 • Baltimore, Maryland 21202

410-396-4804 • Fax 410-539-0647

E-Mail [councilpresident@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:councilpresident@baltimorecity.gov)

July 2, 2018

Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: BUILD Request – BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project**

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to offer my strong support to the Maryland Department of Transportation – Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) for their Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant application for the *BUILDing a Better Howard Street* Project in Baltimore, Maryland. This project will result in quicker, more reliable transit service and enhance safety for all of Howard Street's users, while laying the groundwork for rapid redevelopment along this historic retail corridor.

By pairing much-needed state of good repair and safety improvements with utility upgrades and improved pedestrian amenities, this project provides a generational opportunity to revitalize the area. After many years of working to reinvigorate the project area, stakeholders along the corridor are beginning to see momentum build with recently completed developments succeeding and several more currently under construction.

Baltimore City agencies and corridor institutions and businesses have worked closely with the MTA to develop a program that addresses many of the key infrastructure issues in the Howard Street corridor and will help to foster the continuing economic revitalization of this important part of Baltimore.

As President of the Baltimore City Council, I can attest to the importance of this project in supporting the economic success of our region. I appreciate your strong consideration of this MDOT MTA application for a 2018 BUILD grant.

Sincerely,

Bernard C. "Jack" Young  
Baltimore City Council President

BCY/lfd

Chairman, Budget & Appropriations Committee  
Chairman, Judiciary & Legislative Investigations Committee  
Chairman, Biennial Audits Oversight Commission  
Chairman, Stormwater Remediation Oversight Committee



City Hall, Room 527  
100 N Holliday Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202

Land Use & Transportation Committee  
Taxation, Finance, & Economic Development Committee

Eric T. Costello

(o) 410-396-4816  
(m) 443-813-1457  
(e) [eric.costello@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:eric.costello@baltimorecity.gov)

Baltimore City Council, 11<sup>th</sup> District

July 3, 2018

The Hon. Elaine Chao, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Via Email to: Holly T. Arnold, Director  
Maryland Transit Administration: Office of Planning & Programming  
[harnold@mta.maryland.gov](mailto:harnold@mta.maryland.gov)

RE: BUILD Request – BUILDING a Better Howard Street Project

Secretary Chao:

I write to offer my strong support to the Maryland Department of Transportation – Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) for their Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant application for the *BUILDing a Better Howard Street* Project in Baltimore, Maryland. This project will result in quicker, more reliable transit service and enhance safety for all of Howard Street's users, while laying the groundwork for rapid redevelopment along this historic retail corridor.

By pairing much-needed state of good repair and safety improvements with utility upgrades and improved pedestrian amenities, this project provides a generational opportunity to revitalize the area. After many years of working to reinvigorate the project area, stakeholders along the corridor are beginning to see momentum build with recently-completed developments succeeding and several more currently under construction.

Baltimore City agencies and corridor institutions and businesses have worked closely with the MTA to develop a program that addresses many of the key infrastructure issues in the Howard Street corridor and will help to foster the continuing economic revitalization of this important part of Baltimore.

As one of Baltimore's local legislators, I can attest to the importance of this project in supporting the economic success of our region. I appreciate your strong consideration of this MDOT MTA application for a 2018 BUILD grant. Should you have any questions, please reach out to me at 410-396-4816 or [eric.costello@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:eric.costello@baltimorecity.gov).

Sincerely,

Eric. T. Costello  
Baltimore City Council, 11th District



**COMMITTEES**

**VICE CHAIRMAN:**  
BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS  
TAXATION, FINANCE AND ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT

**MEMBER:**  
JUDICIARY & LEGISLATIVE INVESTIGATIONS  
LAND USE & TRANSPORTATION  
PUBLIC SAFETY

July 16, 2018

Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: BUILD Request – BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project**

Dear Secretary Chao:

Please accept this correspondence as support for the Maryland Department of Transportation – Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT – MTA)'s application for the Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant for the *BUILDing a Better Howard Street* Project in Baltimore, Maryland. This project will result in quicker, more reliable transit service and enhance safety for all of Howard Street's users; while fostering the environment for rapid redevelopment along this historic retail corridor.

After many years of working to reinvigorate the project area, stakeholders along the corridor are beginning to see momentum build with recently completed developments succeeding and several more currently under construction. By pairing much-needed repair and safety improvements with utility upgrades and improved pedestrian amenities, this project provides a generational opportunity to revitalize the area. In my district, the *North Avenue Rising* project is currently underway, investing more than \$20 million dollars to improve streetscapes and facades along North Avenue. This will have a tremendous positive impact for the neighborhoods that align that corridor.

Baltimore City agencies and corridor institutions and businesses have worked closely with the MDOT – MTA to develop a program that addresses many of the key infrastructure issues in the Howard Street corridor and will help to foster the continuing economic revitalization of this important part of Baltimore.

As one of Baltimore's representatives, I can attest to the importance of this project in supporting the economic success of our region. I appreciate your strong consideration of this MDOT MTA application for a 2018 BUILD grant.

In your service,

Councilman Leon F. Pinkett, III  
Baltimore City Council, 7<sup>th</sup> District

**BARBARA A. ROBINSON**  
*Legislative District 40*  
Baltimore City

Education, Health, and Environmental  
Affairs Committee

*Chair Emeritus*  
Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland



**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

*Annapolis Office*  
Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Suite 401  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3656 · 301-858-3656  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3656  
Fax 410-841-3738 · 301-858-3738  
Barbara.Robinson@senate.state.md.us

*District Office*  
2901 Druid Park Drive, Suite 210  
Baltimore, Maryland 21215  
410-225-3620 · Fax 410-225-3621

July 3, 2018

Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: BUILD Request – BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project**

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to offer my strong support to the Maryland Department of Transportation – Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) for their Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant application for the BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project in Baltimore, Maryland. This project will result in quicker, more reliable transit service and enhance safety for all of Howard Street's users, while laying the groundwork for rapid redevelopment along this historic retail corridor.

By pairing much-needed state of good repair and safety improvements with utility upgrades and improved pedestrian amenities, this project provides a generational opportunity to revitalize the area. After many years of working to reinvigorate the project area, stakeholders along the corridor are beginning to see momentum build with recently completed developments succeeding and several more currently under construction.

Baltimore City agencies and corridor institutions and businesses have worked closely with the MTA to develop a program that addresses many of the key infrastructure issues in the Howard Street corridor and will help to foster the continuing economic revitalization of this important part of Baltimore.

As one of Baltimore's representatives, I can attest to the importance of this project in supporting the economic success of our region. I appreciate your strong consideration of this MDOT MTA application for a 2018 BUILD grant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara A. Robinson".

Senator Barbara A. Robinson  
Representing the 40th Legislative District

ANTONIO L. HAYES  
Legislative District 40  
Baltimore City

Health and Government  
Operations Committee



*Annapolis Office*  
The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 315  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3545 · 301-858-3545  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3545  
Fax 410-841-3279 · 301-858-3279  
Antonio.Hayes@house.state.md.us

*District Office*  
12 West Madison Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201  
410-862-0437

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

July 17, 2018

Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: BUILD Request – BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project**

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to offer my strong support to the Maryland Department of Transportation – Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) for their Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant application for the *BUILDing a Better Howard Street* Project in Baltimore, Maryland. This project will result in quicker, more reliable transit service and enhance safety for all of Howard Street's users, while laying the groundwork for rapid redevelopment along this historic retail corridor.

By pairing much-needed state of good repair and safety improvements with utility upgrades and improved pedestrian amenities, this project provides a generational opportunity to revitalize the area. After many years of working to reinvigorate the project area, stakeholders along the corridor are beginning to see momentum build with recently completed developments succeeding and several more currently under construction.

Baltimore City agencies and corridor institutions and businesses have worked closely with the MTA to develop a program that addresses many of the key infrastructure issues in the Howard Street corridor and will help to foster the continuing economic revitalization of this important part of Baltimore.

As one of Baltimore's representatives, I can attest to the importance of this project in supporting the economic success of our region. I appreciate your strong consideration of this MDOT MTA application for a 2018 BUILD grant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Antonio L. Hayes".

Delegate Antonio L. Hayes  
40<sup>th</sup> Legislative District - MD

ROBBYN LEWIS  
Legislative District 46  
Baltimore City

Environment and Transportation  
Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 304  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3772 · 301-858-3772  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3772  
Fax: 410-841-3341 · 301-858-3341  
Robbyn.Lewis@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

July 10, 2018

Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: BUILD Request – BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project**

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to offer my strong support to the Maryland Department of Transportation – Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) for their Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant application for the *BUILDing a Better Howard Street* Project in Baltimore, Maryland. This project will result in quicker, more reliable transit service and enhance safety for everyone who uses Howard Street, while laying the groundwork for rapid redevelopment along this historic retail corridor.

By pairing much-needed state of good repair and safety improvements with utility upgrades and improved pedestrian amenities, this project provides a generational opportunity to revitalize the area. After many years of working to reinvigorate the project area, stakeholders along the corridor are beginning to see momentum build with recently completed developments succeeding and several more currently under construction.

Baltimore City agencies and corridor institutions and businesses have worked closely with the MTA to develop a program that addresses many of the key infrastructure issues in the Howard Street corridor and will help to foster the continuing economic revitalization of this important part of Baltimore.

As one of Baltimore's state representatives, I can attest to the importance of this project in supporting the economic success of our region. I appreciate your strong consideration of this MDOT MTA application for a 2018 BUILD grant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robbyn Lewis'.

Robbyn Lewis  
Delegate, District 46

**BROOKE E. LIERMAN**  
*Legislative District 46*  
Baltimore City



The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 311  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3319 · 301-858-3319  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3319  
Brooke.Lierman@house.state.md.us

Appropriations Committee

Oversight Committee on Pensions

Transportation and the Environment  
Subcommittee

**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

July 10, 2018

Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: BUILD Request – BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to offer my strong support to the Maryland Department of Transportation – Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) for their Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant application for the BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project in Baltimore, Maryland. This project will result in quicker, more reliable transit service and enhance safety for all of Howard Street’s users, while laying the groundwork for rapid redevelopment along this historic retail corridor.

By pairing much-needed state of good repair and safety improvements with utility upgrades and improved pedestrian amenities, this project provides a generational opportunity to revitalize the area. After many years of working to reinvigorate the project area, stakeholders along the corridor are beginning to see momentum build with recently completed developments succeeding and several more currently under construction.

Baltimore City agencies and corridor institutions and businesses have worked closely with the MTA to develop a program that addresses many of the key infrastructure issues in the Howard Street corridor and will help to foster the continuing economic revitalization of this important part of Baltimore.

As one of Baltimore’s representatives, I can attest to the importance of this project in supporting the economic success of our region. I appreciate your strong consideration of this MDOT MTA application for a 2018 BUILD grant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brooke E. Lierman".

Brooke E. Lierman

July 11, 2018

The Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: BUILD Request – BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project**

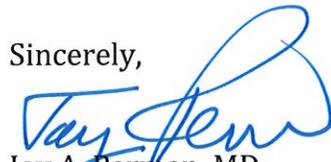
Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to convey University of Maryland, Baltimore's strong support for the Maryland Department of Transportation – Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) for their Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant application for the *BUILDing a Better Howard Street* Project in Baltimore, Maryland. We look forward to working with the MTA and other public, private and community organizations to support the needed investment along Howard Street.

We recognize the important role that Howard Street plays in the revitalization of this area of Baltimore. This project will result in quicker, more reliable service for Light RailLink transit riders and enhance safety for all of Howard Street's users, all the while laying the groundwork for rapid redevelopment along this historic retail corridor. After many years of working to reinvigorate the project area, we are beginning to see momentum build with a growing arts community and several mixed-use and residential developments currently underway. We support this project as a key piece of the overall economic revitalization strategy for this area.

University of Maryland, Baltimore appreciates your strong consideration of this MDOT MTA application as it addresses many of the key infrastructure issues in the Howard Street corridor and will help to foster the continuing economic revitalization of this exciting arts and entertainment district.

Sincerely,



Jay A. Perman, MD  
President



250 W. Pratt Street  
24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-6829  
www.umms.org

CORPORATE OFFICE

June 26, 2018

Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: BUILD Request – BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project**

Dear Secretary Chao:

University of Maryland Medical System is pleased to offer its support to the Maryland Department of Transportation – Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) for their Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant application for the BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project in Baltimore, Maryland. This transformative investment will result in quicker, more reliable service for Light RailLink transit riders and enhance safety for all of Howard Street’s users, all the while laying the groundwork for rapid redevelopment along this historic retail corridor.

By pairing much-needed state of good repair and safety improvements with utility upgrades and improved pedestrian amenities, this project provides a generational opportunity to revitalize the area. Rail replacement and realignment will allow MDOT MTA to operate at higher speeds through the corridor, avoid crashes and injuries, reduce interruptions to service, decrease noise nuisances from horns and wheel squeals, and enhance access to nearby jobs and cultural attractions. Upgrades to the legacy utilities that lie beneath Howard Street will enable property owners to leverage the corridor’s excellent proximity to downtown, stadiums, three medical centers, two public universities, and a growing community of artists, as well as MDOT MTA’s rail service and achieve the high-density mixed-use and residential envisioned by the city’s zoning ordinance. Investment in pedestrian amenities and a refreshed streetscape focused around the connection between Metro SubwayLink and Light RailLink will pair with local efforts to update building façades, supporting vibrant commercial activities.

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**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND MEDICAL SYSTEM**

**University of Maryland Medical Center • University of Maryland Medical Center Midtown Campus •  
University of Maryland Rehabilitation and Orthopaedic Institute • University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center •  
University of Maryland Shore Regional Health – University of Maryland Shore Medical Center at Easton -  
University of Maryland Shore Medical Center at Chestertown - University of Maryland Shore Medical Center at Dorchester •  
University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center • University of Maryland St. Joseph Medical Center •  
University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health System – University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Medical Center -  
University of Maryland Harford Memorial Hospital •  
University of Maryland Capital Region Health – University of Maryland Bowie Health Center –  
University of Maryland Laurel Regional Hospital – University of Maryland Prince George’s Hospital Center •  
Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital**

Page Two

**BUILD Request – BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project**

After many years of working to reinvigorate the project area, stakeholders along the corridor are beginning to see momentum build with recently completed developments succeeding and several more currently under construction. The BUILDing a Better Howard Street scope grew out of collaborative efforts between MDOT MTA, the Baltimore City Department of Transportation, the Downtown Partnership, the Baltimore Development Corporation, and other corridor institutions and businesses.

Our University of Maryland Medical Center Downtown and Midtown campuses are but 10 key blocks apart. The Howard Street corridor upgraded connection would be a welcome boost to their linkage. Our intent is to explore the use of creative design to enhance the image of the Midtown Campus along its Howard Street façade.

The University of Maryland Medical System appreciates your strong consideration of this MDOT MTA application. This multi-disciplinary effort will provide improvements which address, infrastructure challenges allowing the region's historic retail epicenter to redefine itself and thrive one again.

Sincerely,



Mark Wasserman  
Senior Vice President  
External Affairs



Larry Hogan  
Governor  
Boyd K. Rutherford  
Lt. Governor  
Pete K. Rahn  
Secretary

Office of the Secretary

July 13, 2018

Ms. Elaine Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to offer my full support for the Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Administration's (MDOT MTA) application for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant funding for the *BUILDing a Better Howard Street* project in Baltimore City. The project's proposed improvements will result in faster, more reliable service for RailLink transit riders, enhance pedestrian safety along Howard Street, and lay the groundwork for rapid redevelopment along this historic Baltimore retail corridor.

This project delivers transformative repair and safety improvements, utility upgrades, and pedestrian amenities. The rail replacement and realignment will allow MDOT MTA to operate at higher speeds through the corridor, avoid crashes and injuries, reduce interruptions to service, decrease noise nuisances, and enhance access to nearby jobs and cultural attractions. Investment in pedestrian amenities and a refreshed streetscape will pair with local efforts to update building facades and support the corridor's vibrant commercial activities.

The *BUILDing a Better Howard Street* project is a result of collaborative efforts between MDOT MTA, the Baltimore City Department of Transportation, the Downtown Partnership, the Baltimore Development Corporation, and other corridor institutions and businesses. After many years of working to reinvigorate the Howard Street corridor, momentum is surging with several successfully completed developments and several more under current construction.

I respectfully urge that MDOT MTA's application for grant funding for the *BUILDing a Better Howard Street* project receive favorable consideration. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Heather Murphy, MDOT Office of Planning and Capital Programming (OPCP) Director, at 410-865-1275, toll free at 888-713-1414, or by email at [hmurphy@mdot.state.md.us](mailto:hmurphy@mdot.state.md.us). Of course, you may always contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Pete K. Rahn  
Secretary

cc: Ms. Heather Murphy, Director, OCP, MDOT  
Mr. Kevin B. Quinn, Jr., Administrator, MDOT MTA

CATHERINE E. PUGH  
Mayor



THOMAS J. STOSUR  
Director

July 11, 2018

Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: BUILD Request – BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project**

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Baltimore City Department of Planning is pleased to offer its support to the Maryland Department of Transportation – Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) for their Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant application for the BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project in Baltimore, Maryland. This transformative investment will result in quicker, more reliable service for Light RailLink transit riders and enhance safety for all of Howard Street’s users, all the while laying the groundwork for rapid redevelopment along this historic retail corridor.

By pairing much-needed state of good repair and safety improvements with utility upgrades and improved pedestrian amenities, this project provides a generational opportunity to revitalize the area. After many years of working to reinvigorate the project area, stakeholders along the corridor are beginning to see momentum build with recently completed developments succeeding and several more currently under construction.

With the uptick in development activity along Howard Street and the surrounding Westside neighborhood, the Department of Planning and partner agencies worked collaboratively to create the Bromo District Vision Plan. The plan proposed various landscape, streetscape, and placemaking elements to reinvigorate cultural and economic activity along the corridor. We view the BUILD project as a rare and unique opportunity to expedite the implementation of the plan and also address many of the key infrastructure issues along the Howard Street corridor. Combined, these revitalization efforts will help position Howard Street as a regional destination for arts and entertainment and propel the economic growth of this important part of Baltimore.

The Department of Planning appreciates your strong consideration of this MDOT MTA application as it is a multi-disciplinary improvement that addresses infrastructure challenges allowing the region’s historic retail epicenter to thrive again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas J. Stosur".

Thomas J. Stosur



Larry Hogan, Governor  
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor

Robert S. McCord, Secretary

July 10, 2018

Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: BUILD Request – BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project**

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Maryland Department of Planning (Planning) extends its support to the Maryland Department of Transportation – Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT-MTA) for their Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant application for the BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project in Baltimore, Maryland. This transformative project will result in more efficient and reliable service for Light RailLink riders and enhance safety for all Howard Street users, all the while supporting rapid redevelopment in Downtown Baltimore.

The *BUILDing a Better Howard Street* Project grew out of collaborative efforts among MDOT-MTA, the Baltimore City Department of Transportation, the Baltimore Development Corporation, and other stakeholders to address key infrastructure issues in the historic Howard Street corridor and help to foster the continuing economic revitalization in this important part of Baltimore. After many years of working to reinvigorate the project area, stakeholders along the corridor are seeing momentum built with recently completed or planned developments. By pairing state of good repair and safety improvements for Light RailLink with utility upgrades and pedestrian amenity enhancements, this project provides a generational opportunity to revitalize the area.

Planning has collaborated with MDOT- MTA and other state and local partners to support a variety of multimodal accessibility and community revitalization projects in Baltimore. As a partner, Planning is committed to assist in the project implementation, analysis of planning information, and research of best practices on integrating transit improvement with community enhancement.

The Maryland Department of Planning appreciates your strong consideration of this MDOT-MTA application as it is a multi-disciplinary improvement that addresses infrastructure challenges facilitating the region's historic retail epicenter to thrive again. We look forward to partnering with MDOT-MTA to support the BUILDing a Better Howard Street as a complement to the Maryland's Planning Policies that encourage transit improvement and community enhancement.

Sincerely,

Pat Keller

Assistant Secretary for Planning Services  
Maryland Department of Planning



Larry Hogan  
*Governor*

Michael J. Frenz  
*Executive Director*

Members

Thomas E. Kelso  
*Chairman*

Leonard J. Attman  
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Gary L. Mangum  
Manervia W. Riddick  
James T. Smith, Jr.  
Jodi C. Stanalonis

Maryland Stadium Authority  
The Warehouse at Camden Yards  
333 W. Camden Street, Suite 500  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
410-333-1560  
1-877-MDSTADIUM  
Fax: 410-333-1888

[www.mdstad.com](http://www.mdstad.com)

Voice: 800-201-7165  
TTY: 800-735-2258

June 29, 2018

Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: BUILD Request – BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Maryland Stadium Authority (MSA) is pleased to offer its support to the Maryland Department of Transportation – Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) for their Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant application for the BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project in Baltimore, Maryland. This transformative investment will result in quicker, more reliable service for Light RailLink transit riders and enhance safety for all of Howard Street's users, all the while laying the groundwork for rapid redevelopment along this historic retail corridor.

By pairing much-needed state of good repair and safety improvements with utility upgrades and improved pedestrian amenities, this project provides a generational opportunity to revitalize the area. Rail replacement and realignment will allow MDOT MTA to operate at higher speeds through the corridor, avoid crashes and injuries, reduce interruptions to service, decrease noise nuisances from horns and wheel squeals, and enhance access to nearby jobs and cultural attractions. Upgrades to the legacy utilities that lie beneath Howard Street will enable property owners to leverage the corridor's excellent proximity to downtown, stadiums, three medical centers, two public universities, and a growing community of artists, as well as MDOT MTA's rail service and achieve the high-density mixed-use and residential envisioned by the city's zoning ordinance. Investment in pedestrian amenities and a refreshed streetscape focused around the connection between Metro SubwayLink and Light RailLink will pair with local efforts to update building façades, supporting vibrant commercial activities.

After many years of working to reinvigorate the project area, stakeholders along the corridor are beginning to see momentum build with recently completed developments succeeding and several more currently under construction. The BUILDing a Better Howard Street scope grew out of collaborative efforts between MDOT MTA, the Baltimore City Department of Transportation, the Downtown Partnership, the Baltimore Development Corporation, and other corridor institutions and businesses.

The MSA is fully committed to this project as it encourages the exploration of Baltimore's Howard Street as a destination and enhances the overall visitor experience for events at the Camden Yard Sports Complex (CYSC.)

Similarly, MSA looks forward to working with our friends and partners at MDOT MTA on the new rail station at the CYSC that complements the historic Camden Station, iconic B&O Warehouse, and beloved ballpark as it welcomes commuters and visitors to Baltimore. The MDOT MTA/MARC Camden Station Replacement is moving forward and expected to break ground in late 2018.

Maryland Stadium Authority appreciates your strong consideration of this MDOT MTA application as it is a multi-disciplinary improvement that addresses infrastructure challenges allowing the region's historic retail epicenter to thrive again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. J. Frenz', written in a cursive style.

Michael J. Frenz  
Executive Director  
Maryland Stadium Authority



LARRY HOGAN  
*Governor*

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD  
*Lt. Governor*

KENNETH C. HOLT  
*Secretary*

TONY REED  
*Deputy Secretary*

July 6, 2018

Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: BUILD Request – BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (the Department) strongly supports the Maryland Department of Transportation – Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) for their Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant application for the “BUILDing a Better Howard Street” project in Baltimore, Maryland. This transformative investment will result in quicker, more reliable service for Light RailLink transit riders and enhance safety for all of Howard Street’s users, all the while laying the groundwork for rapid redevelopment along this historic retail corridor. This project will complement ongoing investments by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development and our partners to allow this historic retail corridor to thrive again.

By pairing much-needed repair and safety improvements with utility upgrades and improved pedestrian amenities, this project provides a generational opportunity to revitalize the area. Rail replacement and realignment will allow MDOT MTA to operate at higher speeds through the corridor, avoid crashes and injuries, reduce interruptions to service, decrease noise nuisances from horns and wheel squeals, and enhance access to nearby jobs and cultural attractions. Upgrades to the legacy utilities that lie beneath Howard Street will enable property owners to leverage the corridor’s excellent proximity to downtown, stadiums, three medical centers, two public universities, and a growing community of artists, as well as MDOT MTA’s rail service and achieve the high-density mixed-use and residential envisioned by the city’s zoning ordinance. Investment in pedestrian amenities and a refreshed streetscape focused around the connection between Metro SubwayLink and Light RailLink will pair with local efforts to update building façades, supporting vibrant commercial activities.

After many years of working to revitalize the Howard Street Corridors, stakeholders along the corridor are beginning to see momentum build with recently completed projects succeeding and several more currently under construction. The BUILDing a Better Howard Street scope grew out of collaborative efforts between MDOT MTA, the Baltimore City Department of Transportation, the Downtown Partnership, the Baltimore Development Corporation, and other corridor institutions and businesses.



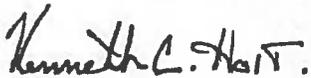
Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary

Page 2

The Department is committed to the continued revitalization of the Howard Street corridor. Since 2011, the Department has invested nearly \$38 million in multifamily housing and community revitalization projects within one-half mile of the Howard Street corridor. Those investments have leveraged nearly \$470 million in public and private investment. Transportation improvements supported by the requested BUILD grant will be vital to the Department's ongoing revitalization efforts, and to attracting the additional public and private support that will make those efforts successful.

The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development strongly supports MDOT MTA BUILD application and urges your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,



Kenneth C. Holt  
Secretary

KCH/kb

cc: John Papagni, Program Officer, Department of Housing and Community Development

**BALTIMORE**  
OFFICE OF PROMOTION & THE ARTS

July 12, 2018

Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: BUILD Request – BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project**

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Baltimore Office of Promotion and The Arts, Baltimore City's official arts council, events agency and film office, strongly supports the Maryland Department of Transportation – Maryland Transit Administration (MTA)'s Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant application, for the *BUILDing a Better Howard Street* Project in Baltimore, Maryland. We look forward to working with the MTA and other public, private and community organizations to support the needed investment along Howard Street.

We recognize the important role that Howard Street plays in the revitalization of this area of Baltimore. Connecting two of Baltimore's Arts and Entertainment Districts, the Howard Street Project will result in quicker, more reliable service for Light RailLink transit riders and enhance safety for all of Howard Street's users, all the while laying the groundwork for rapid redevelopment along this historic retail corridor. After many years of working to reinvigorate the project area, we are beginning to see momentum build with a growing arts community and several mixed-use and residential developments currently underway. We support this project as a key piece of the overall economic revitalization strategy for this area.

The Baltimore Office of Promotion and The Arts appreciates your particular consideration of this MDOT MTA application as it addresses many of the key infrastructure issues in the Howard Street corridor and will help to foster the continuing economic revitalization of this exciting arts and entertainment district.

Sincerely,



Donna Drew Sawyer  
Chief Executive Officer  
Baltimore Office of Promotion and The Arts



---

Calvin G. Butler Jr.  
Chief Executive Officer

Telephone 410.470.3814  
www.bge.com  
calvin.butler@bge.com

An Exelon Company

2 Center Plaza  
110 West Fayette Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201

July 13, 2018

Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: BUILD Request – BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project**

Dear Secretary Chao:

Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) is pleased to offer its support to the Maryland Department of Transportation – Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) for their Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant application for the BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project in Baltimore, Maryland.

Through modernization and safety improvements to the commuter system and pedestrian amenities, this project provides a significant opportunity to revitalize the area. Upgrades to the utility equipment that support the light rail system will ultimately contribute to a better experience for commuters and will enable local business owners and vendors to better leverage the corridor's excellent proximity to downtown, stadiums, three medical centers, two public universities, and an array of other attractions to hopefully increase visitors, residents and economic activity within the area.

As a corporate citizen of Baltimore City and the surrounding metropolitan area, BGE has a long-standing commitment to the growth and betterment of the region and supports the work of the Maryland Department of Transportation and Maryland Transit Administration as they lead this important initiative. We stand ready to work with the agencies with regard to implementing and coordinating any necessary gas and electric infrastructure projects to support this effort.

On behalf of BGE, I appreciate your strong consideration of this MDOT MTA application, as it is a multi-disciplinary improvement that addresses infrastructure challenges allowing the region's historic retail epicenter to thrive again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Calvin G. Butler, Jr.", is located below the text "Sincerely,". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Calvin G. Butler, Jr.



July 12, 2018

Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: BUILD Request – BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project

Dear Secretary Chao:

Bikemore is pleased to offer its support to the Maryland Department of Transportation – Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) for their Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant application for the BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project in Baltimore, Maryland. This transformative investment will result in quicker, more reliable service for Light RailLink transit riders and enhance safety for all of Howard Street's users, all the while laying the groundwork for rapid redevelopment along this historic retail corridor.

By pairing much-needed state of good repair and safety improvements with utility upgrades and improved pedestrian amenities, this project provides a generational opportunity to revitalize the area. Rail replacement and realignment will allow MDOT MTA to operate at higher speeds through the corridor, avoid crashes and injuries, reduce interruptions to service, decrease noise nuisances from horns and wheel squeals, and enhance access to nearby jobs and cultural attractions. Upgrades to the legacy utilities that lie beneath Howard Street will enable property owners to leverage the corridor's excellent proximity to downtown, stadiums, three medical centers, two public universities, and a growing community of artists, as well as MDOT MTA's rail service and achieve the high-density mixed-use and residential envisioned by the city's zoning ordinance. Investment in pedestrian amenities and a refreshed streetscape focused around the connection between Metro SubwayLink and Light RailLink will pair with local efforts to update building façades, supporting vibrant commercial activities.

After many years of working to reinvigorate the project area, stakeholders along the corridor are beginning to see momentum build with recently completed developments succeeding and several more currently under construction. The BUILDing a Better Howard Street scope grew out of collaborative efforts between MDOT MTA, the Baltimore City Department of Transportation, the Downtown Partnership, the Baltimore Development Corporation, and other corridor institutions and businesses.

Bikemore is committed to working with MDOT MTA to ensure that improvements made enhance the city's adopted bike master plan's goals of better connecting residents to transit via first- and last-mile solutions.

Bikemore appreciates your strong consideration of this MDOT MTA application as it is a multi-disciplinary improvement that addresses infrastructure challenges allowing the region's historic retail epicenter to thrive again.

Sincerely,

Jed Weeks  
Policy Director



July 10, 2018

Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: BUILD Request – BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project**

Dear Secretary Chao:

Blue Water Baltimore is a regional watershed organization focused on protecting and restoring the waterways in Baltimore City, Maryland. We are pleased to offer this letter in support of the Maryland Department of Transportation – Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) for their Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant application for the BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project in Baltimore. This transformative investment will support ongoing efforts to improve public transit via Light Rail and meaningful redevelopment along this historic retail corridor within the city.

By coupling rail line safety and alignment improvements with utility upgrades and improved pedestrian amenities, this project has the potential to powerfully spur revitalization in this area. Rail replacement and realignment will allow MDOT MTA to operate the Light Rail with increased efficiency and dependability, important for access to nearby jobs and cultural attractions. Upgrades to the utilities that lie under Howard Street will also enable property owners to leverage the corridor's proximity to downtown, three medical centers, two public universities, and a growing community of artists. Investment in pedestrian amenities and streetscaping focused around the connection between Metro Subway and Light Rail will also support local efforts to update building façades, supporting vibrant commercial activities. This project will help Baltimore City revive Howard Street as a desirable, high-density mixed-use and residential corridor.

The *BUILDing a Better Howard Street* scope grew out of collaborative efforts between MDOT MTA, the Baltimore City Department of Transportation, the Downtown Partnership, the Baltimore Development Corporation, and other corridor stakeholders. It is precisely this kind of coordinated renovation and leveraged investment that Baltimore City needs to regain its foothold as a thriving, safe place to live, work and play. Blue Water Baltimore is committed to supporting state and local partnership efforts that will improve the livability of Baltimore's downtown and we respectfully urge your favorable consideration of this MDOT MTA application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Aiosa".

Jennifer Aiosa, Executive Director  
Blue Water Baltimore



June 30, 2018

Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: BUILD Request – BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project**

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Bromo Tower Arts and Entertainment District is pleased to offer its support to the Maryland Department of Transportation – Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) for their Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant application for the BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project in Baltimore, Maryland. This transformative investment will result in quicker, more reliable service for Light RailLink transit riders and enhance safety for all of Howard Street's users, all the while laying the groundwork for rapid redevelopment along this historic retail corridor.

By pairing much-needed state of good repair and safety improvements with utility upgrades and improved pedestrian amenities, this project provides a generational opportunity to revitalize the area. Rail replacement and realignment will allow MDOT MTA to operate at higher speeds through the corridor, avoid crashes and injuries, reduce interruptions to service, decrease noise nuisances from horns and wheel squeals, and enhance access to nearby jobs and cultural attractions.

Upgrades to the legacy utilities that lie beneath Howard Street will enable property owners to leverage the corridor's excellent proximity to downtown, stadiums, three medical centers, two public universities, and a growing community of artists, as well as MDOT MTA's rail service and achieve the high-density mixed-use and residential envisioned by the city's zoning ordinance. Investment in pedestrian amenities and a refreshed streetscape focused around the connection between Metro SubwayLink and Light RailLink will pair with local efforts to update building façades, supporting vibrant commercial activities.

Bromo Tower Arts & Entertainment Inc.  
218 W. Saratoga Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201



After many years of working to reinvigorate the project area, stakeholders along the corridor are beginning to see momentum build with recently completed developments succeeding and several more currently under construction. The *BUILDing a Better Howard Street* scope grew out of collaborative efforts between MDOT MTA, the Baltimore City Department of Transportation, the Downtown Partnership, the Baltimore Development Corporation, and other corridor institutions and businesses.

The Bromo Tower Arts and Entertainment District is committed to creating a vibrant downtown neighborhood full of theaters, galleries, music venues and artist housing.

The Bromo Tower Arts and Entertainment District appreciates your strong consideration of this MDOT MTA application as it is a multi-disciplinary improvement that addresses infrastructure challenges allowing the region's historic retail epicenter to thrive again.

Sincerely,

Stephen Yasko  
Executive Director



## Center for Mobility Equity

Formerly Central Maryland Regional Transit

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June 28, 2018

Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: BUILD Request – BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project**

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Center for Mobility Equity (CME) is pleased to offer its support to the Maryland Department of Transportation – Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) for their Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant application for the BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project in Baltimore, Maryland. This transformative investment will result in quicker, more reliable service for Light RailLink transit riders and enhance safety for all of Howard Street's users, all the while laying the groundwork for rapid redevelopment along this historic retail corridor.

The Center for Mobility Equity believes that all people have a right to equitable access to transportation; and that access to safe, reliable, and affordable transportation options is one of the most critical components to leading a healthy, independent, and fully connected life. The Center for Mobility Equity works to connect individuals with employment, education, healthcare, and social services, as well as access to healthy foods, recreational activities, etc., by providing individual and group training, as well as online and over-the-phone information and support, in utilizing public transportation safely and independently.

Through our extensive experience working with older adults and individuals with disabilities in Baltimore, CME believes that BUILDing a Better Howard Street is a critical step in improving access and wayfinding across Baltimore's modal network, especially for these vulnerable rider populations. CME is committed to assisting MTA in making this project a success through transit rider and stakeholder engagement, public outreach and travel training before, throughout and after the construction process.

CME appreciates your strong consideration of this MDOT MTA application as it is a multi-disciplinary improvement that addresses infrastructure challenges allowing the region's historic retail epicenter to thrive again.

Sincerely,

Chris Firehock

Executive Director

[Chris.Firehock@MobilityEquity.org](mailto:Chris.Firehock@MobilityEquity.org)

240-581-5776

# current

July 10, 2018

Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: BUILD Request – BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project

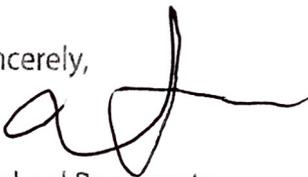
Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to convey Current Space's strong support for the Maryland Department of Transportation – Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) for their Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant application for the BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project in Baltimore, Maryland. We look forward to working with the MTA and other public, private and community organizations to support the needed investment along Howard Street.

We recognize the important role that Howard Street plays in the revitalization of this area of Baltimore. This project will result in quicker, more reliable service for Light RailLink transit riders and enhance safety for all of Howard Street's users, all the while laying the groundwork for rapid redevelopment along this historic retail corridor. After being on Howard Street for the past 8 years, we are beginning to see momentum with a growing arts community in artist lead developments, as well as several mixed-use and residential developments currently underway. We support this project as a key piece of the overall economic revitalization strategy for this area.

Current Space appreciates your strong consideration of this MDOT MTA application as it addresses many of the key infrastructure issues in the Howard Street corridor and will help to foster the continuing economic revitalization of this exciting arts and entertainment district.

Sincerely,



Michael Benevento  
Director / Owner

info@currentspace.com



Downtown Baltimore Family Alliance  
1025 South Potomac Street  
Baltimore Maryland, 21224

July 11, 2018

Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: BUILD Request – BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project**

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Downtown Baltimore Family Alliance (DBFA) is pleased to offer our support to the Maryland Department of Transportation – Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) for their Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant application for the BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project in Baltimore, Maryland.

DBFA's mission of building a vibrant inclusive city that all families love to call home includes a strategic focus on strong transit and walkability. We believe that this transformative investment will result in quicker, more reliable service for Light RailLink transit riders and enhanced safety for all of Howard Street.

By pairing much-needed state of good repair and safety improvements with utility upgrades and improved pedestrian amenities, this project provides a generational opportunity to revitalize the area. Rail replacement and realignment will allow MDOT MTA to operate at higher speeds through the corridor, avoid crashes and injuries, reduce interruptions to service, decrease noise nuisances from horns and wheel squeals, and enhance access to nearby jobs and cultural attractions. Upgrades to the legacy utilities that lie beneath Howard Street will enable property owners to leverage the corridor's excellent proximity to downtown, stadiums, three medical centers, two public universities, and a growing community of artists, as well as MDOT MTA's rail service and achieve the high-density mixed-use and residential envisioned by the city's zoning ordinance. Investment in pedestrian amenities and a refreshed streetscape focused around the connection between Metro SubwayLink and Light RailLink will pair with local efforts to update building façades, supporting vibrant commercial activities.

After many years of working to reinvigorate the project area, stakeholders along the corridor are beginning to see momentum build with recently completed developments succeeding and several more currently under construction.

Downtown Baltimore Family Alliance encourages your strong consideration of this MDOT MTA application as it addresses infrastructure challenges that will create a more walkable community with infrastructure improvements as well as improved transit accessibility.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Celeste Perilla". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Celeste Perilla  
Interim Executive Director  
Downtown Baltimore Family Alliance

July 17, 2018

Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: BUILD Application—BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Greater Washington Partnership is a team of civic-minded CEOs, drawing from leading employers and entrepreneurs, who are committed to making the Capital Region—from Baltimore to Richmond—one of the world's best places to live, work and build a business. As CEOs of the largest employers in the region, we strongly support the Maryland Department of Transportation-Maryland Transit Administration's Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant application for its *BUILDing a Better Howard Street* Project in Baltimore, Maryland. This project will result in quicker, more reliable transit service and enhance safety for all of Howard Street's consumers, while catalyzing redevelopment along this historic retail corridor.

The *BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project* includes key elements important to the BUILD transportation grant program: leverages federal funding with private and public resources on a 2:1 basis; is supported by robust public and private partnerships; addresses critical safety and state of good repair concerns; and increases the speed and reliability of transit in a city where 30 percent of residents have no access to a vehicle. This investment will stimulate economic development in commercial and residential development, produce jobs, and attract business activity to this transit-rich corridor.

The CEOs that make up our organization span the geography of our region, employ nearly 200,000 people in the region, and represent a wide range of innovative organizations across industries, including Exelon Corporation, Johns Hopkins University, MedStar Health, Under Armour, and T. Rowe Price. The Partnership is committed to fostering an inclusive economy that creates opportunity for all—this project would help to achieve that in Baltimore. We have worked closely with the MTA on this application and strongly believe that the federal funding will enable a truly transformational project in the Howard Street corridor, which will in turn help to foster the continuing economic revitalization of Baltimore.

I appreciate your strong consideration of *BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project* application for a 2018 BUILD transportation grant funding cycle.



**Jason Miller**  
Chief Executive Officer





**HIPPODROME  
THEATRE** *at the*  
**FRANCE-MERRICK**  
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

July 12, 2018

Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: BUILD Request – BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project**

Dear Secretary Chao:

My name is Ron Legler and I am the President of the France-Merrick Performing Arts Center located in the heart of Downtown Baltimore. I am writing to convey The Hippodrome Theatre's strong support for the Maryland Department of Transportation – Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) for their Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant application for the *BUILDing a Better Howard Street* Project in Baltimore, Maryland. We look forward to working with the MTA and other public, private and community organizations to support the needed investment along Howard Street.

We recognize the important role that Howard Street plays in the revitalization of this area of Baltimore. This project will result in quicker, more reliable service for Light RailLink transit riders and enhance safety for all of Howard Street's users, all the while laying the groundwork for rapid redevelopment along this historic retail corridor. After many years of working to reinvigorate the project area, we are beginning to see momentum build with a growing arts community and several mixed-use and residential developments currently underway. We support this project as a key piece of the overall economic revitalization strategy for this area.

Hippodrome Theatre appreciates your strong consideration of this MDOT MTA application as it addresses many of the key infrastructure issues in the Howard Street corridor and will help to foster the continuing economic revitalization of this exciting arts and entertainment district.

Sincerely,

Ron Legler  
President  
France-Merrick Performing Arts Center  
Hippodrome Theatre

July 10, 2018

Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: BUILD Request – BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project**

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to convey Le Mondo Inc.'s strong support for the Maryland Department of Transportation – Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) for their Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant application for the *BUILDing a Better Howard Street* Project in Baltimore, Maryland. We look forward to working with the MTA and other public, private and community organizations to support the needed investment along Howard Street.

We recognize the important role that Howard Street plays in the revitalization of this area of Baltimore. This project will result in quicker, more reliable service for Light RailLink transit riders and enhance safety for all of Howard Street's users, all the while laying the groundwork for rapid redevelopment along this historic retail corridor. After many years of working to reinvigorate the project area, we are beginning to see momentum build with a growing arts community and several mixed-use and residential developments currently underway. We support this project as a key piece of the overall economic revitalization strategy for this area.

Le Mondo Inc. appreciates your strong consideration of this MDOT MTA application as it addresses many of the key infrastructure issues in the Howard Street corridor and will help to foster the continuing economic revitalization of this exciting arts and entertainment district.

Sincerely, 

Frederick Gerriets  
Chief Operating Officer  
Le Mondo Inc.



July 12, 2018

Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: BUILD Request – BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project**

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to convey Maryland Art Place's (MAP's) strong support for the Maryland Department of Transportation – Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) for their Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant application for the *BUILDing a Better Howard Street* Project in Baltimore, Maryland. We look forward to working with the MTA and other public, private and community organizations to support the needed investment along Howard Street.

We recognize the important role that Howard Street plays in the revitalization of this area of Baltimore. This project will result in quicker, more reliable service for Light RailLink transit riders and enhance safety for all of Howard Street's users, all the while laying the groundwork for rapid redevelopment along this historic retail corridor. After many years of working to reinvigorate the project area, we are beginning to see momentum build with a growing arts community and several mixed-use and residential developments currently underway. We support this project as a key piece of the overall economic revitalization strategy for this area.

MAP appreciates your strong consideration of this MDOT MTA application as it addresses many of the key infrastructure issues in the Howard Street corridor and will help to foster the continuing economic revitalization of this exciting arts and entertainment district.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy C. Royce".

Amy Cavanaugh Royce  
Executive Director, Maryland Art Place



July 13, 2018

Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: BUILD Request - BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project**

Dear Secretary Chao,

The Maryland Chamber of Commerce is pleased to offer its support to the Maryland Department of Transportation - Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA) for their Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant application for the BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project in Baltimore, Maryland. This transformative investment will result in quicker, more reliable service for Light RailLink transit riders and enhance safety for all of Howard Street's users, all while laying the groundwork for rapid redevelopment along this historic retail corridor.

By pairing much-needed state of good repair and safety improvements with utility upgrades and improved pedestrian amenities, this project provides a generational opportunity to revitalize the area. Rail replacement and realignment will allow MDOT MTA to operate at higher speeds through the corridor, avoid crashes and injuries, reduce interruptions to service, decrease noise nuisances from horns and wheel squeals, and enhance access to nearby jobs and cultural attractions. Upgrades to the legacy utilities that lie beneath Howard Street will enable property owners to leverage the corridor's excellent proximity to downtown, stadiums, three medical centers, two public universities and a growing community of artists, as well as MDOT MTA's rail service and achieve the high-density mixed-use and residential envisioned by the city's zoning ordinance. Investment in pedestrian amenities and a refreshed streetscape focused around the connection between Metro SubwayLink and Light RailLink will pair with local efforts to update building façades, supporting vibrant commercial activities.

After many years of working to reinvigorate the project area, stakeholders along the corridor are beginning to see momentum build with recently completed developments succeeding and several more currently under construction. The *BUILDing a Better Howard Street* scope grew out of collaborative efforts between MDOT MTA, the Baltimore City Department of Transportation, the Downtown Partnership, the Baltimore Development Corporation and other corridor institutions and businesses.

MDCHAMBER.ORG

60 West Street, Suite 100, Annapolis, MD 21401 | 410-269-0642

The Maryland Chamber appreciates your strong consideration of this MDOT MTA application as it is a multi-disciplinary improvement that addresses infrastructure challenges allowing the region's historic retail epicenter to thrive again.

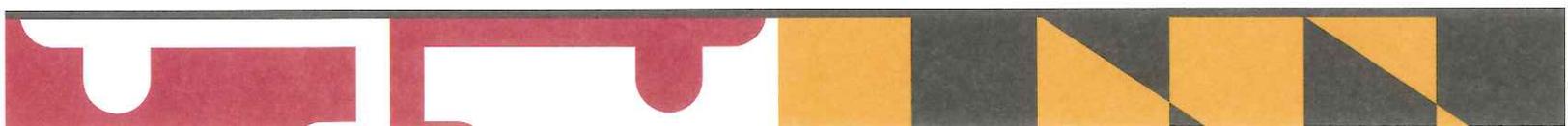
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine Ross".

Christine Ross, C.C.E., MBA, M.S.  
President & CEO  
Maryland Chamber of Commerce

[MDCHAMBER.ORG](http://MDCHAMBER.ORG)

60 West Street, Suite 100, Annapolis, MD 21401 | 410-269-0642





July 16, 2018

Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: BUILD Request – BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project**

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Maryland Retailers Association is pleased to offer its support to the Maryland Department of Transportation – Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) for their Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant application for the BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project in Baltimore, Maryland. This transformative investment will result in quicker, more reliable service for Light RailLink transit riders and enhance safety for all of Howard Street's users, all the while laying the groundwork for rapid redevelopment along this historic retail corridor.

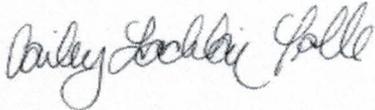
By pairing much-needed state of good repair and safety improvements with utility upgrades and improved pedestrian amenities, this project provides a generational opportunity to revitalize the area. Rail replacement and realignment will allow MDOT MTA to operate at higher speeds through the corridor, avoid crashes and injuries, reduce interruptions to service, decrease noise nuisances from horns and wheel squeals, and enhance access to nearby jobs and cultural attractions. Upgrades to the legacy utilities that lie beneath Howard Street will enable property owners to leverage the corridor's excellent proximity to downtown, stadiums, three medical centers, two public universities, and a growing community of artists, as well as MDOT MTA's rail service and achieve the high-density mixed-use and residential envisioned by the city's zoning ordinance. Investment in pedestrian amenities and a refreshed streetscape focused around the connection between Metro SubwayLink and Light RailLink will pair with local efforts to update building façades, supporting vibrant commercial activities.

After many years of working to reinvigorate the project area, stakeholders along the corridor are beginning to see momentum build with recently completed developments succeeding and several more currently under construction. The *BUILDing a Better Howard Street* scope grew out of collaborative efforts between MDOT MTA, the Baltimore City Department of Transportation, the Downtown Partnership, the Baltimore Development Corporation, and other corridor institutions and businesses.

The Maryland Retailers Association is committed to this much needed partnership that will result in a more positive retail atmosphere in this area.

The Maryland Retailers Association appreciates your strong consideration of this MDOT MTA application as it is a multi-disciplinary improvement that addresses infrastructure challenges allowing the region's historic retail epicenter to thrive again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cailey Locklair Tolle".

Cailey Locklair Tolle  
President  
Maryland Retailers Association

July 17, 2018

Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: BUILD Request – BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project**

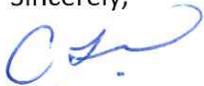
Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to convey Paradise Management's strong support for the Maryland Department of Transportation – Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) for their Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant application for the *BUILDing a Better Howard Street* Project in Baltimore, Maryland. We look forward to working with the MTA and other public, private and community organizations to support the needed investment along Howard Street.

We recognize the important role that Howard Street plays in the revitalization of this area of Baltimore. This project will result in quicker, more reliable service for Light RailLink transit riders and enhance safety for all of Howard Street's users, all the while laying the groundwork for rapid redevelopment along this historic retail corridor. After many years of working to reinvigorate the project area, we are beginning to see momentum build with a growing arts community and several mixed-use and residential developments currently underway. We support this project as a key piece of the overall economic revitalization strategy for this area.

Paradise Management appreciates your strong consideration of this MDOT MTA application as it addresses many of the key infrastructure issues in the Howard Street corridor and will help to foster the continuing economic revitalization of this exciting arts and entertainment district.

Sincerely,



Austin Caufield  
The Centerpoint  
Property Manager



June 29, 2018

Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: BUILD Request – BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project**

Dear Secretary Chao:

Transit Choices is pleased to offer its support to the Maryland Department of Transportation – Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) for their Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant application for the BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project in Baltimore, Maryland. This transformative investment will result in quicker, more reliable service for Light RailLink transit riders and enhance safety for all of Howard Street's users, all the while laying the groundwork for rapid redevelopment along this historic retail corridor.

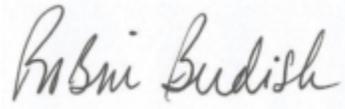
By pairing much-needed state of good repair and safety improvements with utility upgrades and improved pedestrian amenities, this project provides a generational opportunity to revitalize the area. Rail replacement and realignment will allow MDOT MTA to operate at higher speeds through the corridor, avoid crashes and injuries, reduce interruptions to service, decrease noise nuisances from horns and wheel squeals, and enhance access to nearby jobs and cultural attractions. Upgrades to the legacy utilities that lie beneath Howard Street will enable property owners to leverage the corridor's excellent proximity to downtown, stadiums, three medical centers, two public universities, and a growing community of artists, as well as MDOT MTA's rail service and achieve the high-density mixed-use and residential envisioned by the city's zoning ordinance. Investment in pedestrian amenities and a refreshed streetscape focused around the connection between Metro SubwayLink and Light RailLink will pair with local efforts to update building façades, supporting vibrant commercial activities.

After many years of working to reinvigorate the project area, stakeholders along the corridor are beginning to see momentum build with recently completed developments succeeding and several more currently under construction. The *BUILDing a Better Howard Street* scope grew out of collaborative efforts between MDOT MTA, the Baltimore City Department of Transportation, the Downtown Partnership, the Baltimore Development Corporation, and other corridor institutions and businesses.

Transit Choices is a strong coalition of business organizations, cultural institutions, universities, architecture firms, community groups, developers, conservation groups, transportation planners, young entrepreneurs, and concerned individuals joined together by the vision of creating efficient and effective transit in Baltimore. We have long supported transit initiatives designed to strengthen our city, and believe that accessible transit is an essential means to achieving personal and economic independence. People of all ages, races, ethnicities, and abilities deserve access to transportation that will enable them to achieve their fullest potential.

Transit Choices appreciates your strong consideration of this MDOT MTA application as it is a multi-disciplinary improvement that addresses infrastructure challenges allowing the region's historic retail epicenter to thrive again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robin Budish". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'R' at the beginning.

Robin Budish  
Transit Choices, Director



July 3, 2018

Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: BUILD Request – BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project**

Dear Secretary Chao:

Visit Baltimore is pleased to offer its support to the Maryland Department of Transportation – Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) for their Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant application for the *BUILDing a Better Howard Street Project*. As the official destination marketing and convention sales organization for the City of Baltimore, Visit Baltimore is in the business of tourism. We believe this transformative investment will enhance our City’s tourism community and associated economic activity by resulting in quicker, more reliable service for Light RailLink transit riders and enhanced safety for all of Howard Street’s users (locals and visitors alike), all the while laying the groundwork for rapid redevelopment along this historic retail corridor.

Howard Street is home to major tourism assets such as Lexington Market and the Baltimore Arena; and, rail service transporting employees of those businesses as well as local residents and visiting guests to major hubs of tourism activity such as Camden Yards and the Baltimore Convention Center. By pairing much-needed state of good repair and safety improvements with utility upgrades and improved pedestrian amenities, this project provides a generational opportunity to revitalize this key area within our business, resident and visitor economy:

- Rail replacement and realignment will allow MDOT MTA to operate at higher speeds through the corridor, avoid crashes and injuries, reduce interruptions to service, decrease noise nuisances from horns and wheel squeals, and enhance access to nearby jobs and cultural attractions.
- Upgrades to the legacy utilities that lie beneath Howard Street will enable property owners to leverage the corridor’s excellent proximity to downtown, stadiums, three medical centers, two public universities, and a growing community of artists, as well as MDOT MTA’s rail service and achieve the high-density mixed-use and residential envisioned by the city’s zoning ordinance; and,
- Investment in pedestrian amenities and a refreshed streetscape focused around the connection between Metro SubwayLink and Light RailLink will pair with local efforts to update building façades, supporting vibrant commercial activities.

After many years of working to reinvigorate the project area, stakeholders along the corridor are beginning to see momentum build with recently completed developments succeeding and several more currently under construction. The *BUILDing a Better Howard Street* scope grew out of collaborative efforts between MDOT MTA, the Baltimore City Department of Transportation, the Downtown Partnership, the Baltimore Development Corporation, and other corridor institutions and businesses.

Visit Baltimore is committed to supporting MDOT MTA in the continuation of this project by serving as a consulting resource on all things tourism, and, in sharing news of the project's latest developments, news and associated opportunities with our ~800-member strong network of hospitality and tourism businesses.

In closing, Visit Baltimore urges your favorable consideration of this MDOT MTA application. We need this kind of multi-disciplinary approach to fix our city's infrastructure challenges and allow the region's historic retail epicenter to thrive again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Al Hutchinson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Al Hutchinson  
President & CEO  
Visit Baltimore