Southern Illinois Multi-Modal Station:

Letters of Support

July 2018

Location: Carbondale, Illinois

Project Type: Urban – Multi-Modal Transportation Center

Applicant: City of Carbondale

Type of Applicant: City Government

BUILD Funding Requested: $14.64 M

DUNS Number: 096712948

Website: multimodal.explorecarbondale.com

Contact: Gary Williams, City Manager City of Carbondale, Illinois
phone: (618) 457-3226, email: gwilliams@explorecarbondale.com
Letters of Project Support

**United States Congress**

- Senator Richard J. Durbin, Assistant Democratic Leader
- Senator Tammy Duckworth
- Representative Mike Bost, 12th District Illinois
- Representative John Shimkus, 15th District Illinois (not included, sent directly to DOT)

**State of Illinois Senators and Representatives**

- State Representative Terri Bryant, 115th District
- State Senator Paul Schimpf, 58th District
- State Senator Dale Fowler, 59th District
- State Representative Natalie Phelps Finnie, 118th District
- State Representative Dave Severin, 117th District

**Illinois State Government**

- Illinois Department of Transportation - Randall S. Blankenhorn, Secretary
- Intersect Illinois - Mark Peterson, President & CEO
- Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity - Kim Watson, Senior Account Manager
- Illinois Chamber of Commerce - Benjamin J. Brockschmidt, Vice President of Policy

**Regional Transportation Partners**

- Greyhound Lines – John D. Baranowski, Senior Director
- Amtrak - William N. Feidt, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

**Local Governmental Agencies & Organizations**

- Jackson County Board - John S. Rendleman, Chairman
- Carbondale Chamber of Commerce - Jennifer Olson, President & CEO
- Carbondale Public Library - Diana Brawley Sussman, Director
- Carbondale Main Street - Meghan Cole, Executive Director
**Educational Establishments**

- **Southern Illinois University Economic Development** - Kyle L. Harfst, PhD, Executive Director
- **John A. Logan College** - Dennis White, Director of the Center for Workforce Development
- **Southern Illinois University** – Tena Bennett, Student Center Director / Saluki Express
- **Carbondale Community High School District 165** - Stephen Murphy, Superintendent
- **Carbondale Elementary School District 95** – Daniel Booth, Superintendent

**Regional & Local Planning Agencies**

- **Southern Illinois Metropolitan Planning Organization** – Joe Zdankiewicz, Director of Transportation Planning
- **Greater Egypt Regional Planning & Development Commission** - Cary Minnis, Executive Director

**Regional & Local Mass Transit Districts**

- **Rides Mass Transit District** - Bill Jung, Chief Executive Officer
- **South Central Illinois Mass Transit District** - Sheila Niederhofer, Managing Director
- **Shawnee Mass Transit District** - Shawn Freeman, Executive Director
- **Jackson County Mass Transit** – Bentley Bender, Board Chairman

**Local Business & Industries**

- **Southern Illinois Healthcare** - Woody Thorne, Vice President of Community Affairs & Chief Development Officer
- **Laborers’ International Union of North America Local 773** – Jerry Womick, Interim Business Manager
- **Man-Tra-Con Corporation** – Kathy Lively, CEO
- **Carbondale Tourism** - Cinnamon Wheeles-Smith, Executive Director
- **Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church** – Christopher E. Swims, Senior Pastor
- **Champion Community Investments** - Rex Duncan, Executive Director
- **Shawnee Group Sierra Club** - Jane Cogie, Board Chair
Elaine Chao, U.S. Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing in support of the City of Carbondale’s application for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant for $14.64 million through the U.S. Department of Transportation, for the Southern Illinois Multi-Modal Station (SIMMS) project. This grant will allow the City of Carbondale to complete design and construction and will also help generate much needed activity within their region.

Southern Illinois is a rural region of high poverty and the residents rely heavily on regional transit services to connect them to employment, educational, and healthcare facilities. When complete, the SIMMS project will house 3 regional transit services, a county-wide mass transit service, and a Carbondale city-wide transit service; all of which are public services. In addition, the facility will provide Amtrak and Greyhound bus services and will also integrate the region’s first bicycle-sharing service. Collectively, the range of transit services that the SIMMS facility will provide will make it a true regional multimodal asset that will strengthen the existing public transportation network, enhance linkages among transit providers, and will incorporate innovative approaches to public transit. Together, these improvements will expand options for the residents to access key facilities within the region.

In addition to the improvements that the SIMMS project will provide for public transportation, this project would generate many high-quality construction jobs for the area which will generate additional economic impact. I urge you to give the City of Carbondale’s application the most serious consideration. Thank you for your consideration to this matter and if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my Springfield office at (217) 492-4062.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Richard J. Durbin
U.S. Senator

RJD/aa
July 12, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to express my support for the City of Carbondale’s application to the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) discretionary grants program. Funding from this grant will enable the City of Carbondale to improve regional connectivity and economic activity through the Southern Illinois Multi-Modal Station project (SIMMS).

The Illinois Metropolitan Planning Organization established the Carbondale Urbanized Area as an urban tract following the 2010 Census. While this area consists of four distinct communities – Carbondale, Marion, Herrin and Carterville – the municipalities are separated by large tracts of traditionally rural spaces. The three regional transit agencies that currently span service across twenty-three rural counties in the region are relied upon by residents for access to key employment, educational and healthcare services. The Southern Illinois Multi-Modal Station project would enhance the three regional transit agencies that already service this area by adding a Jackson County-wide mass transit service and a Carbondale city-wide service. The station will also accommodate incoming Amtrak, Greyhound and the region’s first bicycle-sharing services.

This project will strengthen Carbondale’s heavily used public transit system and afford better access to key services for area residents, and place Carbondale as a transportation hub in Southern Illinois. The City of Carbondale believes that grant funding for this multi-modal station will bolster the economic development of Southern Illinois by unifying the Carbondale Urbanized Area and the Southern Illinois Region. As one of my top priorities in the Senate is to modernize Illinois infrastructure and transit systems, I understand the critical role that the Department of Transportation can play in supporting this effort.

Please accept this letter of support for the City of Carbondale’s application to the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development discretionary grants program. In keeping with your existing rules and regulations, I urge you to give this proposal full and fair consideration. Should you have any questions, please contact my Grants Specialist, Dan McManus, at 312.886.3506 or by email at dan_mcmanus@duckworth.senate.gov.

Sincerely,

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator
June 26, 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 in regards to an application by the City of Carbondale, Illinois for a United States Department of Transportation (DOT) Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) for the Southern Illinois Multi-Modal Station (SIMMS) project. Your attention to this matter is appreciated.

The BUILD Grant would allow the City of Carbondale to complete design and construction of a multimodal transportation project that promises to enhance and address critical objectives such as improvement the efficient movement of commerce and persons while also helping generate much needed economic activity within the region. Southern Illinois is a rural region with high degree of poverty. Residents often rely on regional transit services as the sole means of connecting them to employment, educational, and healthcare facilities.

When complete, the SIMMS project will house 3 regional transit services, a county-wide mass transit service, and a Carbondale city-wide transit service; all of which are public services. In addition, the facility will provide Amtrak and Greyhound bus services and will also integrate the region’s first bicycle-sharing service. Collectively, the range of transit services that the SIMMS facility will provide will make it a true regional multimodal asset that will strengthen the existing public transportation network, enhance linkages among transit providers, and will incorporate innovative approaches to public transit.

Together, these improvements will expand options for our residents to access key facilities within the region. In addition to the improvements that the SIMMS project will provide for public transportation, this project would be a significant infrastructure investment to our region and would generate many high-quality construction jobs for the area which will generate additional economic impact.

Once again, I encourage the DOT to give this application all due consideration. I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Mike Bost
Member of Congress
June 21, 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 express my support of the City of Carbondale’s application for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (Build) grant for $14.64 million through the U.S. Department of Transportation, for the Southern Illinois Multi-Model Station (SIMMS) project. This grant will allow the City of Carbondale to complete design and construction and will also help generate much needed economic activity within our region.

Southern Illinois is a rural region of high poverty and our residents rely heavily on regional transit services to connect them to employment education, and healthcare facilities. When complete, the SIMMS project will house 3 regional transit services, a county-wide mass transit service, and a Carbondale city-wide transit service; all of which are public services. In addition, the facility will provide Amtrak and Greyhound bus services and will also integrate the region’s first bicycle-sharing service. Collectively, the range of transit services that the SIMMS facility will provide will make it a true regional multimodal asset that will strengthen the existing public transportation network, enhance linkages among transit providers, and will incorporate innovative approaches to public transit. Together, these improvements will expand options for our residents to access key facilities within the region.

In addition to the improvements that the SIMMS project will provide for public transportation, this project would be a significant infrastructure investment to our region and would generate many high-quality construction jobs for the area which will generate additional economic impact. As such, I strongly support the use of BUILD funds to help facilitate the development of this critical project for Southern Illinois.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Terri Bryant
State Representative
June 19, 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 express my support of the City of Carbondale’s application for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant for $14.64 million through the U.S. Department of Transportation, for the Southern Illinois Multi-Modal Station (SIMMS) project. This grant will allow the City of Carbondale to complete design and construction and will also help generate much needed economic activity within our region.

Southern Illinois is a rural region of high poverty and our residents rely heavily on regional transit services to connect them to employment, educational, and healthcare facilities. When complete, the SIMMS project will house 3 regional transit services, a county-wide mass transit service, and a Carbondale city-wide transit service; all of which are public services. In addition, the facility will provide Amtrak and Greyhound bus services and will also integrate the region’s first bicycle-sharing service. Collectively, the range of transit services that the SIMMS facility will provide will make it a true regional multimodal asset that will strengthen the existing public transportation network, enhance linkages among transit providers, and will incorporate innovative approaches to public transit. Together, these improvements will expand options for our residents to access key facilities within the region.

In addition to the improvements that the SIMMS project will provide for public transportation, this project would be a significant infrastructure investment to our region and would generate many high-quality construction jobs for the area which will generate additional economic impact. As such, I strongly support the use of BUILD funds to help facilitate the development of this critical project for Southern Illinois.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Paul Schimpf
State Senator
58th District
July 6, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to express my support of the City of Carbondale’s application for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant for $14.64 million through the U.S. Department of Transportation, for the Southern Illinois Multi-Modal Station (SIMMS) project. This grant will allow the City of Carbondale to complete design and construction and will also help generate much needed economic activity within our region.

Southern Illinois is a rural region of high poverty and our residents rely heavily on regional transit services to connect them to employment, educational, and healthcare facilities. When complete, the SIMMS project will house 3 regional transit services, a county-wide mass transit service, and a Carbondale city-wide transit service; all of which are public services. In addition, the facility will provide Amtrak and Greyhound bus services and will also integrate the region’s first bicycle-sharing service. Collectively, the range of transit services that the SIMMS facility will provide will make it a true regional multimodal asset that will strengthen the existing public transportation network, enhance linkages among transit providers, and will incorporate innovative approaches to public transit. Together, these improvements will expand options for our residents to access key facilities within the region.

In addition to the improvements that the SIMMS project will provide for public transportation, this project would be a significant infrastructure investment to our region and would generate many high-quality construction jobs for the area which will generate additional economic impact. As such, I strongly support the use of BUILD funds to help facilitate the development of this critical project for Southern Illinois.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Dale Fowler
State Senator
59th District
The Honorable Elaine L. Chao, Secretary
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

Please accept this letter of support on behalf of the City of Carbondale. The City of Carbondale is submitting an application for the Better Utilizing Investments to leverage Development (BUILD) grant in the amount of $14.64 million through the US Department of Transportation for Southern Illinois Multi-Modal Station (SIMMS) project.

Southern Illinois is a rural region of high poverty and our residents rely heavily on regional transit services to connect them to employment, educational and healthcare facilities. When complete, the SIMMS project will house 3 regional transit services, a county-wide mass transit service and a Carbondale city-wide transit service. All of which are public services. The facility will provide Amtrak and Greyhound bus services and will also integrate the regions first bicycle-sharing service. The SIMMS facility will provide a range of transit services that will make it a true regional multimodal asset that will strengthen the existing public transportation, enhance linkages among transit providers and will incorporate innovative approaches to public transit.

This grant will allow the City of Carbondale to complete design and construction and will also help generate much needed economic activity within our region. In addition to the improvements that the SIMMS project will provide for public transportation, this project would be a significant infrastructure investment and generate many high-quality construction jobs for the area which will add to the economic impact.
Secretary Chao, I ask you give the City of Carbondale’s application your utmost consideration. I strongly support the use of BUILD funds to help facilitate the development of this critical project for southern Illinois.

Sincerely,

Natalie Phelps Finnie
State Representative
118th District
June 19, 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 express my support of the City of Carbondale’s application for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant for $14.64 million through the U.S. Department of Transportation, for the Southern Illinois Multi-Modal Station (SIMMS) project. This grant will allow the City of Carbondale to complete design and construction and will also help generate much needed economic activity within our region.

Southern Illinois is a rural region of high poverty and our residents rely heavily on regional transit services to connect them to employment, educational, and healthcare facilities. When complete, the SIMMS project will house 3 regional transit services, a county-wide mass transit service, and a Carbondale city-wide transit service; all of which are public services. In addition, the facility will provide Amtrak and Greyhound bus services and will also integrate the region’s first bicycle-sharing service. Collectively, the range of transit services that the SIMMS facility will provide will make it a true regional multimodal asset that will strengthen the existing public transportation network, enhance linkages among transit providers, and will incorporate innovative approaches to public transit. Together, these improvements will expand options for our residents to access key facilities within the region.

In addition to the improvements that the SIMMS project will provide for public transportation, this project would be a significant infrastructure investment to our region and would generate many high-quality construction jobs for the area which will generate additional economic impact. As such, I strongly support the use of BUILD funds to help facilitate the development of this critical project for Southern Illinois.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Dave Severin  
State Representative

RECYCLED PAPER · SOYBEAN INKS
July 11, 2018

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, 9th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20590-9898

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) supports the City of Carbondale's "Southern Illinois Multi-Modal Station" (SIMMS) application for FFY 2018 Discretionary funding through the "Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development" (BUILD) program. The application seeks $14.6 million in federal BUILD funds and the total estimated cost of the project is $18.3 million — to be matched with $3.7 million (20 percent) in non-federal funds from the City of Carbondale.

The project consists of constructing a 15,000-square-foot multimodal station that will house offices for three regional transit service providers (RIDES, South Central Illinois Mass Transit District and the Shawnee Mass Transit District), the Jackson County Mass Transit District, the Saluki Express (Southern Illinois University and city-wide transit), Amtrak, Greyhound bus service and the region's first bike share system. This facility will allow each of the services to co-locate in the same facility which will strengthen all the multi-modal transportation linkages. This project represents a major infrastructure investment for the Southern Illinois region and it will allow southern Illinois residents to connect with employment centers, educational facilities, as well as healthcare facilities. Finally, in addition to the public transportation improvements that the SIMMS project will provide, the project will also generate many high-quality construction jobs and generate other associated indirect economic impacts.

Again, IDOT supports the City of Carbondale's request for BUILD funds for the SIMMS project. Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Randall S. Blankenhorn
Secretary
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 express my support of the City of Carbondale’s application for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant for $14.64 million through the U.S. Department of Transportation, for the Southern Illinois Multi-Modal Station (SIMMS) project. This grant will allow the City of Carbondale to complete design and construction and also help generate much needed economic activity within our region.

Southern Illinois is a rural region of high poverty and our residents rely heavily on regional transit services to connect them to employment, educational, and healthcare facilities. When complete, the SIMMS project will house 3 regional transit services, a county-wide mass transit service, and a Carbondale city-wide transit service; all of which are public services. In addition, the facility will provide Amtrak and Greyhound bus services and will also integrate the region’s first bicycle-sharing service. Collectively, the range of transit services that the SIMMS facility will provide will make it a true regional multimodal asset that will strengthen the existing public transportation network, enhance linkages among transit providers, and will incorporate innovative approaches to public transit. Together, these improvements will expand options for our residents to access key facilities within the region.

In addition to the improvements that the SIMMS project will provide for public transportation, this project would be a significant infrastructure investment to our region and would generate many high-quality construction jobs for the area which will generate additional economic impact. As such, I strongly support the use of BUILD funds to help facilitate the development of this critical project for Southern Illinois.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Mark S. Peterson
President & CEO
Intersect Illinois

230 W. Monroe St.
Suite 330
Chicago, IL 60606
intersectillinois.com
June 29, 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 express my support of the City of Carbondale’s application for the Better Utilizing investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant for $14.64 million through the U.S. Department of Transportation, for the Southern Illinois Multi-Modal Station (SIMMS) project. This grant will allow the City of Carbondale to complete design and construction and will also help generate much needed economic activity within our region.

In a rural area like Southern Illinois, transportation is often cited as a key impediment to connecting qualified workers with jobs. SIMMS will provide an opportunity to improve public transportation throughout the region and doing so, will provide opportunities to many low-income residents to access jobs, educational opportunities, and healthcare. Collectively, these improvements will improve the quality-of-life for many of our residents.

In addition to the improvements that the SIMMS project will provide for public transportation, this project would be a significant infrastructure investment to our region and would generate many high-quality construction jobs for the area which will generate additional economic impact. As such, I strongly support the use of BUILD funds to help facilitate the development of this critical project for Southern Illinois.

All the best,

Kim Watson  
Senior Account Manager
July 3, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

The Illinois Chamber of Commerce supports the City of Carbondale's application for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant application for the Southern Illinois Multi-Modal Station (SIMMS) project. Development of similar projects across the country has improved access to new opportunities, generating economic activity within the region.

The Carbondale region is home to Southern Illinois University and numerous communities and businesses, proof that transit is not limited to urban areas. This region relies on transit to move people and connect them to healthcare facilities as well as new employment and education opportunities.

Once completed, the range of transit services provided by the SIMMS facility will make it a real regional multimodal asset. It will be home to three regional transit services, a county-wide mass transit service, a Carbondale city-wide transit service, provide Amtrak and Greyhound bus services, and integrate the region's first bicycle-sharing service.

Employee access to efficient and safe public transportation is essential for a healthy workforce while providing additional opportunities for businesses to grow and prosper.

Thank you for your consideration of this vital project.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Benjamin J. Brockschmidt
Vice President of Policy
July 5, 2018

Mr. Gary Williams  
City Manager of Carbondale  
200 S. Illinois Ave  
Carbondale, IL 62902  

Cc: James Derrick, Adam Krom, Noah Bradshaw - AMTRAK

Re: Greyhound Support for Intermodal Ground Transportation

Thank you for your recent call.

Greyhound, more than any private transportation company, remains committed to keeping people moving and communities prospering. This is core to our brand!

As such, we are pleased to support your bid for a development to house Greyhound, Amtrak and local transit in a common intermodal structure.

Nationally, Greyhound and Amtrak have increasingly favored co-location. This practical concept efficiently leverages investment, and most important, facilitates improved and easy Bus/Train/local transfers regardless of the weather.

Intermodals, common overseas, are becoming common in N. America as Greyhound now resides in over 170 shared facilities.

When the project enters the design phase, don’t hesitate to contact us on what works well; these developments are often a source of community pride, and Greyhound is proud to be a part of that.

John D Baranowski  
Senior Director  
john.baranowski@greyhound.com
July 16, 2018

Mr. Gary Williams, MPA
City Manager
City of Carbondale
200 S. Illinois Ave.
Carbondale, IL 62902

Dear Mr. Williams:

The National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) would like to take this opportunity to express its support for the City of Carbondale’s grant application submitted in response to the Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant through the U.S. Department of Transportation. It is funded under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018. This Notice announced the availability of $1.5 billion to be awarded by the USDOT for transportation infrastructure investment projects that will have a significant local or regional impact.

Amtrak’s support relates to the following project:

**Southern Illinois Multi-Modal Station (SIMMS) project**

It is our understanding that this project, upon completion, has the potential to improve intercity passenger rail service, benefit the Amtrak system and will house three regional transit services, a county-wide mass transit service, and a Carbondale city-wide transit service. In addition, the facility will accommodate Greyhound intercity coach services, of which several schedules are interlined with Amtrak, and integrate the region’s first bicycle-sharing service. Collectively, the range of transit services that the SIMMS facility will provide will make it a true regional multimodal asset that will strengthen the existing public transportation network, enhance linkages among transit and intercity providers, and will incorporate innovative approaches to public transit.

Subject to the development of such project-specific agreements as USDOT and Amtrak may require, we support this application as a potential candidate for funding. It is Amtrak’s expectation that, prior to the obligation of grant funds for these projects, the City of Carbondale and Amtrak will discuss resource requirements and Amtrak’s ability to adequately support the Project, and subsequently enter into agreements setting forth our roles and responsibilities with respect to this project, with terms acceptable to Amtrak.
Mr. Gary Williams, MPA  
July 16, 2018  
Page 2

The advancement of projects like these will not only significantly improve our nation’s transportation infrastructure, but will also contribute to the economic competitiveness of the United States. We appreciate your leadership in filing this application and look forward to working with you on this and future opportunities to improve intercity passenger rail transportation.

Sincerely,

William N. Feidt  
Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer

cc: The Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation
July 6, 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 express my support of the City of Carbondale’s application for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant for $14.64 million through the U.S. Department of Transportation, for the Southern Illinois Multi-Modal Station (SIMMS) project. This grant will allow the City of Carbondale to complete design and construction and will also help generate much needed economic activity within our region.

In a rural area like Southern Illinois, transportation is often cited as a key impediment to connecting qualified workers with jobs. SIMMS will provide an opportunity to improve public transportation throughout the region and doing so, will provide opportunities to many low-income residents to access jobs, educational opportunities, and healthcare. Collectively, these improvements will improve the quality-of-life for many of our residents.

In addition to the improvements that the SIMMS project will provide for public transportation, this project would be a significant infrastructure investment to our region and would generate many high-quality construction jobs for the area which will generate additional economic impact. As such, I strongly support the use of BUILD funds to help facilitate the development of this critical project for Southern Illinois.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

John S. Rendleman, Chairman
Jackson County Board

cc: City of Carbondale
June 26, 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 on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Carbondale Chamber of Commerce to express our support of the City of Carbondale’s application for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant for $14.64 million through the U.S. Department of Transportation, for the Southern Illinois Multi-Modal Station (SIMMS) project. This grant will allow the City of Carbondale to complete design and construction and will also help generate much needed economic activity within our region.

In a rural area like Southern Illinois, transportation is often cited as a key impediment to connecting qualified workers with jobs. SIMMS will provide an opportunity to improve public transportation throughout the region and doing so, will provide opportunities to many low-income residents to access jobs, educational opportunities, and healthcare. Collectively, these improvements will improve the quality-of-life for many of our residents.

In addition to the improvements that the SIMMS project will provide for public transportation, this project would be a significant infrastructure investment to our region and would generate many high-quality construction jobs for the area which will generate additional economic impact. As such, we strongly support the use of BUILD funds to help facilitate the development of this critical project for Southern Illinois.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Olson, President & CEO
On Behalf of the Board of Directors
of the Carbondale Chamber of Commerce
June 27, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

As the Carbondale Public Library Director, I am very supportive of the City of Carbondale’s application for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant. The city is applying for $14.64 million through the U.S. Department of Transportation, for the Southern Illinois Multi-Modal Station (SIMMS) project. This grant will allow the City of Carbondale to complete the project’s design and construction. The project will generate much needed economic activity within our region.

Transportation is an employment obstacle for so many people in our region. People come to our public library to create resumes, apply for jobs, and even to access social work. Therefore, we hear their stories. We can attest to the fact that transportation is an employment obstacle. It can be an obstacle to tourism and everyday commerce as well.

Our region’s low-income residents desperately need improved transportation to access jobs, to access our area’s colleges and universities, and to meet their basic needs, from groceries to healthcare. Beyond that, all residents and tourists will benefit from improved public transportation, and that benefit will reward area businesses when customers can more easily access them.

The project will bring construction jobs to our region, and will spur future investment in our region. I sincerely hope that the City of Carbondale will be granted BUILD funds for this vital project.

Sincerely,

Diana Brawley Sussman, Director
Carbondale Public Library

405 WEST MAIN / CARBONDALE, ILLINOIS 62901-2995 PHONE 618-457-0354 / FAX 618-457-0353
cplib@carbondale.lib.il.us / www.carbondalepubliclibrary.org
June 28, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter to support the City of Carbondale’s application for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant for $14.64 million through the U.S. Department of Transportation, for the Southern Illinois Multi-Modal Station (SIMMS) project. Carbondale Main Street is dedicated to improving and promoting the downtown district of Carbondale, IL and the contribution of a multi-modal station will be key to the continued progress celebrated in our downtown.

Our visitors, residents, University students, employees, and our community as a whole will benefit from a transportation center located in the heart of our downtown. SIMMS can provide service to so many individuals in our rural community, as well as providing jobs in our region. The infill to our downtown landscape and infrastructure improvement is critically needed at this time.

Without hesitation, Carbondale Main Street offers their support for this application.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Meghan Cole, Executive Director
Carbondale Main Street

121 S. Illinois Avenue
Carbondale, IL 62901
June 25, 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 express my support of the City of Carbondale's application for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant for $14.64 million through the U.S. Department of Transportation, for the Southern Illinois Multi-Modal Station (SIMMS) project. This grant will allow the City of Carbondale to complete design and construction and will also help generate much needed economic activity within southern Illinois.

In a rural area like southern Illinois, transportation is often cited as a key impediment to connecting qualified workers with jobs. SIMMS will provide an opportunity to improve public transportation throughout the region and doing so, will provide opportunities to many low-income residents to access jobs, educational opportunities, and healthcare. Collectively, these improvements will improve the quality-of-life for many of our residents.

In addition to the improvements that the SIMMS project will provide for public transportation, this project would be a significant infrastructure investment to our region and would generate many high-quality construction jobs for the area which will generate additional economic impact. As such, I strongly support the use of BUILD funds to help facilitate the development of this critical project for Southern Illinois.

Sincerely,

Kyle Harfst, PhD
Executive Director
1740 Innovation Drive, Suite # 103
Carbondale, Illinois 62903
June 26, 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 express my support of the City of Carbondale's application for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant for $14.64 million through the U.S. Department of Transportation, for the Southern Illinois Multi-Modal Station (SIMMS) project. This grant will allow the City of Carbondale to complete design and construction and will also help generate much needed economic activity within our region.

In a rural area like Southern Illinois, transportation is often cited as a key impediment to connecting qualified workers with jobs. SIMMS will provide an opportunity to improve public transportation throughout the region and doing so, will provide opportunities to many low-income residents to access jobs, educational opportunities, and healthcare. Collectively, these improvements will improve the quality-of-life for many of our residents.

In addition to the improvements that the SIMMS project will provide for public transportation, this project would be a significant infrastructure investment to our region and would generate many high-quality construction jobs for the area which will generate additional economic impact. As such, I strongly support the use of BUILD funds to help facilitate the development of this critical project for Southern Illinois.

Sincerely,

Dennis White
Director
Center for Workforce Development
John A. Logan College
June 29, 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 express my support of the City of Carbondale’s application for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant for $14.64 million through the U.S. Department of Transportation, for the Southern Illinois Multi-Modal Station (SIMMS) project. This grant will allow the City of Carbondale to complete design and construction and will also help generate much needed economic activity within our region.

In a rural area like Southern Illinois, transportation is often cited as a key impediment to connecting qualified workers with jobs. SIMMS will provide an opportunity to improve public transportation throughout the region and doing so, will provide opportunities to many low-income residents to access jobs, educational opportunities, and healthcare. Collectively, these improvements will improve the quality-of-life for many of our residents including the students of Southern Illinois University.

In addition to the improvements that the SIMMS project will provide for public transportation, this project would be a significant infrastructure investment to our region and would generate many high-quality construction jobs for the area which will generate additional economic impact. As such, I strongly support the use of BUILD funds to help facilitate the development of this critical project for Southern Illinois.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Tena Bennett
Student Center Director, Saluki Express management
June 25, 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 express my support of the City of Carbondale’s application for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant for $14.64 million through the U.S. Department of Transportation, for the Southern Illinois Multi-Modal Station (SIMMS) project. This grant will allow the City of Carbondale to complete design and construction and will also help generate much needed economic activity within our region.

In a rural area like Southern Illinois, transportation is often cited as a key impediment to connecting qualified workers with jobs. SIMMS will provide an opportunity to improve public transportation throughout the region, and doing so will provide opportunities to many low-income residents to access jobs, educational opportunities, and healthcare. Collectively, these improvements will improve the quality-of-life for many of our residents.

In addition to the improvements that the SIMMS project will provide for public transportation, this project would be a significant infrastructure investment to our region and would generate many high-quality construction jobs for the area which will generate additional economic impact. As such, I strongly support the use of BUILD funds to help facilitate the development of this critical project for Southern Illinois.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Stephen Murphy
Superintendent
July 3, 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 express my support of the City of Carbondale’s application for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant for $14.64 million through the U.S. Department of Transportation, for the Southern Illinois Multi-Modal Station (SIMMS) project. This grant will allow the City of Carbondale to complete design and construction and will also help generate much needed economic activity within our region.

In a rural area like Southern Illinois, transportation is often cited as a key impediment to connecting qualified workers with jobs. SIMMS will provide an opportunity to improve public transportation throughout the region and doing so, will provide opportunities to many low-income residents to access jobs, educational opportunities, and healthcare. Collectively, these improvements will improve the quality-of-life for many of our residents.

In addition to the improvements that the SIMMS project will provide for public transportation, this project would be a significant infrastructure investment to our region and would generate many high-quality construction jobs for the area which will generate additional economic impact. As such, I strongly support the use of BUILD funds to help facilitate the development of this critical project for Southern Illinois.

Sincerely,

Daniel Booth
Superintendent
June 26, 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 express my support of the City of Carbondale’s application for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant for $14.64 million through the U.S. Department of Transportation, for the Southern Illinois Multi-Modal Station (SIMMS) project. This grant will allow the City of Carbondale to complete design and construction and will also help generate much needed economic activity within our region.

In a rural area like Southern Illinois, transportation is often cited as a key impediment to connecting qualified workers with jobs. SIMMS will provide an opportunity to improve public transportation throughout the region and doing so, will provide opportunities to many low-income residents to access jobs, educational opportunities, and healthcare. Collectively, these improvements will improve the quality-of-life for many of our residents.

In addition to the improvements that the SIMMS project will provide for public transportation, this project would be a significant infrastructure investment to our region and would generate many high-quality construction jobs for the area which will generate additional economic impact. As such, I strongly support the use of BUILD funds to help facilitate the development of this critical project for Southern Illinois.

This project has been coordinated with the SIMPO Policy Committee and, if funded, would be immediately processed for addition to the SIMPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Sincerely,

Joe Zdankiewicz
Director of Transportation Planning
06/26/2018

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 express my support of the City of Carbondale's application for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant for $14.64 million through the U.S. Department of Transportation, for the Southern Illinois Multi-Modal Station (SIMMS) project. This grant will allow the City of Carbondale to complete design and construction and will also help generate much needed economic activity within our region.

In a rural area like Southern Illinois, transportation is often cited as a key impediment to connecting qualified workers with jobs. SIMMS will provide an opportunity to improve public transportation throughout the region and doing so, will provide opportunities to many low-income residents to access jobs, educational opportunities, and healthcare. Collectively, these improvements will improve the quality-of-life for many of our residents.

In addition to the improvements that the SIMMS project will provide for public transportation, this project would be a significant infrastructure investment to our region and would generate many high-quality construction jobs for the area which will generate additional economic impact. As such, I strongly support the use of BUILD funds to help facilitate the development of this critical project for Southern Illinois.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Cary Minnis
Executive Director
June 26, 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 express my support of the City of Carbondale’s application for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant for $14.64 million through the U.S. Department of Transportation, for the Southern Illinois Multi-Modal Station (SIMMS) project. This grant will allow the City of Carbondale to complete design and construction and will also help generate much needed economic activity within our region.

In a rural area like Southern Illinois, transportation is often cited as a key impediment to connecting qualified workers with jobs. Transit amenities that are provided by the project will connect four regional rural transit providers, intercity bus and passenger rail. SIMMS will provide an opportunity to improve public transportation throughout the region and doing so, will provide opportunities to many low-income residents to access jobs, educational opportunities, and healthcare. Collectively, these improvements will improve the quality-of-life for many of our residents.

In addition to the improvements that the SIMMS project will provide for public transportation, this project would be a significant infrastructure investment to our region and would generate many high-quality construction jobs for the area which will generate additional economic impact. As such, I strongly support the use of BUILD funds to help facilitate the development of this critical project for Southern Illinois.

Sincerely,

Bill Jung, CEO
Rides Mass Transit District
June 25, 2018

Gary Williams, MPA
Interim City Manager
City of Carbondale
200 S. Illinois Ave.
Carbondale, IL. 62902

Dear Mr. Williams

I am writing to express my strong support of the City of Carbondale’s application for the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) VIII grant application for the Carbondale Station Multimodal project. This grant will allow the City of Carbondale to complete construction documents and will also help generate much needed economic activity within our region.

Southern Illinois is a region of high poverty and our residents rely heavily on regional transit services to connect them to employment, educational, and healthcare facilities. When complete, the Carbondale Station multimodal project will house 3 regional transit providers, a county-wide mass transit service, and a Carbondale city-wide transit service; all of which are public services. In addition, the facility will provide Amtrak and Greyhound bus services and will also integrate the region’s first bicycle-sharing service. Collectively, the range of transit services that the Carbondale Station multimodal facility will provide will make it a true regional multimodal asset that will strengthen the existing public transportation network, enhance linkages among transit providers, and will incorporate innovative approaches to public transit. Together, these improvements will expand options for our residents to access key facilities within the region.

In addition to the improvements that the Carbondale Station multimodal project will provide for public transportation, this project would be a significant infrastructure investment to our region and would generate many high-quality construction jobs for the area which will generate additional economic impact. As such, I strongly support the use of TIGER VIII funds to help facilitate the development of this critical project for Southern Illinois.
Thank you for your consideration of the Carbondale Station multimodal project.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Sheila Niederhofer
South Central Transit Managing Director
July 11, 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 express my support of the City of Carbondale’s application for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant for $14.64 million through the U.S. Department of Transportation, for the Southern Illinois Multi-Modal Station (SIMMS) project. This grant will allow the City of Carbondale to complete design and construction and will also help generate much needed economic activity within our region.

Southern Illinois is a rural region of high poverty and our residents rely heavily on regional transit services to connect them to employment, educational, and healthcare facilities. When complete, the SIMMS project will house 3 regional transit services, a county-wide mass transit service, and a Carbondale city-wide transit service; all of which are public services. In addition, the facility will provide Amtrak and Greyhound bus services and will also integrate the region’s first bicycle-sharing service. Collectively, the range of transit services that the SIMMS facility will provide will make it a true regional multimodal asset that will strengthen the existing public transportation network, enhance linkages among transit providers, and will incorporate innovative approaches to public transit. Together, these improvements will expand options for our residents to access key facilities within the region.

In addition to the improvements that the SIMMS project will provide for public transportation, this project would be a significant infrastructure investment to our region and would generate many high-quality construction jobs for the area which will generate additional economic impact. As such, I strongly support the use of BUILD funds to help facilitate the development of this critical project for Southern Illinois.

Sincerely,

Shawn Freeman, MBA
Executive Director
July 11, 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 express my support of the City of Carbondale’s application for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant for $14.64 million through the U.S. Department of Transportation, for the Southern Illinois Multi-Modal Station (SIMMS) project. This grant will allow the City of Carbondale to complete design and construction and will also help generate much needed economic activity within our region.

Southern Illinois is a rural region of high poverty and our residents rely heavily on regional transit services to connect them to employment, educational, and healthcare facilities. When complete, the SIMMS project will house 3 regional transit services, a county-wide mass transit service, and a Carbondale city-wide transit service; all of which are public services. In addition, the facility will provide Amtrak and Greyhound bus services and will also integrate the region’s first bicycle-sharing service. Collectively, the range of transit services that the SIMMS facility will provide will make it a true regional multimodal asset that will strengthen the existing public transportation network, enhance linkages among transit providers, and will incorporate innovative approaches to public transit. Together, these improvements will expand options for our residents to access key facilities within the region.

In addition to the improvements that the SIMMS project will provide for public transportation, this project would be a significant infrastructure investment to our region and would generate many high-quality construction jobs for the area which will generate additional economic impact. As such, I strongly support the use of BUILD funds to help facilitate the development of this critical project for Southern Illinois.

Sincerely,

Bentley Bender
Board Chairman
June 25, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

It is with a great deal of enthusiasm that I take this opportunity to strongly support the efforts of the City of Carbondale’s application for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant for $14.64 million through the U.S. Department of Transportation, for the Southern Illinois Multi-Modal Station (SIMMS) project. This grant will allow the City of Carbondale to complete design and construction and will also help generate much needed economic activity within our region.

Southern Illinois Healthcare is a leading provider of health care services in southern Illinois. Through our three hospitals; St. Joseph’s Memorial Hospital in Murphysboro, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale, and Herrin Hospital, as well as our SIH ambulatory care facilities, inpatient and outpatient health care services are provided to the residents of the southernmost sixteen counties of the state.

In a rural area like Southern Illinois, transportation is often cited as a key impediment to connecting qualified workers with jobs. SIMMS will provide an opportunity to improve public transportation throughout the region and doing so, will provide opportunities to many low-income residents to access jobs, educational opportunities, and healthcare. Collectively, these improvements will improve the quality-of-life for many of our residents.

In addition to the improvements that the SIMMS project will provide for public transportation, this project would be a significant infrastructure investment to our region and would generate many high-quality construction jobs for the area which will generate additional economic impact.

In closing, I strongly support the use of BUILD funds to help facilitate the development of this critical project for Southern Illinois. Thank you very much for your time and attention regarding this matter. If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 618-457-5200, ext. 67836.

Sincerely,

Woody Thorne, Vice President of Community Affairs &
Chief Development Officer

/sm

1239 East Main Street | PO Box 3988
Carbondale, IL 62902-3988

TEL 618-457-5200
FAX 618-529-0568
www.sih.net
July 3, 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 express my support of the City of Carbondale’s application for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant for $14.64 million through the U.S. Department of Transportation, for the Southern Illinois Multi-Modal Station (SIMMS) project. This grant will allow the City of Carbondale to complete design and construction and will also help generate much needed economic activity within our region.

In a rural area like Southern Illinois, transportation is often cited as a key impediment to connecting qualified workers with jobs. SIMMS will provide an opportunity to improve public transportation throughout the region and doing so, will provide opportunities to many low-income residents to access jobs, educational opportunities, and healthcare. Collectively, these improvements will improve the quality-of-life for many of our residents.

In addition to the improvements that the SIMMS project will provide for public transportation, this project would be a significant infrastructure investment to our region and would generate many high-quality construction jobs for the area which will generate additional economic impact. As such, I strongly support the use of BUILD funds to help facilitate the development of this critical project for Southern Illinois.

Sincerely,

Jerry Womick  
Interim Business Manager
June 29, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the Southern Illinois Workforce Development Board, I am writing to express my support of the City of Carbondale’s application for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant for $14.64 million through the U.S. Department of Transportation, for the Southern Illinois Multi-Modal Station (SIMMS) project. This grant will allow the City of Carbondale to complete design and construction and will also help generate much needed economic activity within our region.

In a rural area like Southern Illinois, transportation is often cited as a key impediment to connecting qualified workers with jobs. We witness daily struggles of workers without access to transportation and the devastating impact the subsequent lack of work has on their families and our communities. SIMMS will provide an opportunity to improve public transportation throughout the region and doing so, will provide opportunities to many low-income residents to access jobs, educational opportunities, and healthcare. Collectively, these improvements will improve the quality-of-life for many of our residents.

In addition to the improvements that the SIMMS project will provide for public transportation, this project would be a significant infrastructure investment to our region and would generate many high-quality construction jobs for the area which will generate additional economic impact. As such, I strongly support the use of BUILD funds to help facilitate the development of this critical project for Southern Illinois.

Sincerely,

Kathy Lively, C.E.O.
ManTraCon Corp.
June 27, 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 express my support of the City of Carbondale’s application for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant for $14.64 million through the U.S. Department of Transportation, for the Southern Illinois Multi-Modal Station (SIMMS) project. This grant will allow the City of Carbondale to complete design and construction and will also help generate much needed economic activity within our region.

In a rural area like Southern Illinois, transportation is often cited as a key impediment to connecting qualified workers with jobs. SIMMS will provide an opportunity to improve public transportation throughout the region and doing so, will provide opportunities to many low-income residents to access jobs, educational opportunities, and healthcare. Collectively, these improvements will improve the quality-of-life for many of our residents.

In addition to the improvements that the SIMMS project will provide for public transportation, this project would be a significant infrastructure investment to our region and would generate many high-quality construction jobs for the area which will generate additional economic impact. As such, I strongly support the use of BUILD funds to help facilitate the development of this critical project for Southern Illinois.

Sincerely,

Cinnamon Smith
Executive Director
June 26, 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 express my support of the City of Carbondale’s application for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant for $14.64 million through the U.S. Department of Transportation, for the Southern Illinois Multi-Modal Station (SIMMS) project. This grant will allow the City of Carbondale to complete design and construction and will also help generate much needed economic activity within our region.

In a rural area like Southern Illinois, transportation is often cited as a key impediment to connecting qualified workers with jobs. SIMMS will provide an opportunity to improve public transportation throughout the region and doing so, will provide opportunities to many low-income residents to access jobs, educational opportunities, and healthcare. Collectively, these improvements will improve the quality-of-life for many of our residents.

In addition to the improvements that the SIMMS project will provide for public transportation, this project would be a significant infrastructure investment to our region and would generate many high-quality construction jobs for the area which will generate additional economic impact. As such, I strongly support the use of BUILD funds to help facilitate the development of this critical project for Southern Illinois.

Sincerely,

Christopher E. Swims
Senior Pastor

Karen Algee | Rita Cavitt | Chester Hood
Catherine Martin | Catherine Shaw | Teresa Walls
June 27, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to enthusiastically express my support of the City of Carbondale’s application for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant for $14.64 million through the U.S. Department of Transportation, for the Southern Illinois Multi-Modal Station (SIMMS) project. This grant will allow the City of Carbondale to complete design and construction and will also help generate much needed economic activity within our region.

In a rural area like Southern Illinois, transportation is often cited as a key impediment to connecting qualified workers with jobs. SIMMS will provide an opportunity to improve public transportation throughout the region and doing so, will provide opportunities to many low-income residents to access jobs, educational opportunities, and healthcare. Collectively, these improvements will enhance the quality of life for many of our residents.

In addition to the improvements that the SIMMS project will provide for public transportation, this project would be a significant infrastructure investment to our region and would generate many high-quality construction jobs for the area which will generate additional economic impact. As such, I strongly support the use of BUILD funds to help facilitate the development of this critical project for Southern Illinois.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Rex Duncan
Executive Director
Champion Community Investments

302 East Poplar Street, Post Office Box 466 ∙ Du Quoin, Illinois 62832
618.453.1268 (office) ∙ 618.453.5040 (Fax) ∙ www.ccinvestments.org
July 3, 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 express my support of the City of Carbondale’s application for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant for $14.64 million through the U.S. Department of Transportation, for the Southern Illinois Multi-Modal Station (SIMMS) project. This grant will allow the City of Carbondale to complete design and construction and will also help generate much needed economic activity within our region.

In a rural area like Southern Illinois, transportation is often cited as a key impediment to connecting qualified workers with jobs. SIMMS will provide an opportunity to improve public transportation throughout the region and doing so, will provide opportunities to many low-income residents to access jobs, educational opportunities, and healthcare. Collectively, these improvements will improve the quality-of-life for many of our residents.

In addition to the improvements that the SIMMS project will provide for public transportation, this project would be a significant infrastructure investment to our region and would generate many high-quality construction jobs for the area which will generate additional economic impact. As such, I strongly support the use of BUILD funds to help facilitate the development of this critical project for Southern Illinois.

Sincerely,

Jane Cogie, Chair
Shawnee Group of the Sierra Club
(jane.cogic@gmail.com)