

STEVE DAINES  
MONTANA

320 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
(202) 224-2651

## United States Senate

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April 27, 2020

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to you in support of the City of Billings application for 2020 Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant funds to complete the Northwest Billings Connector and Marathon Loop.

If successful, funds will be used to complete the Northwest Billings Connector and connect existing sections of the Marathon Trail to create nearly 25 miles of continuous parkways. The City of Billings expects this project to improve access to residential and employment areas near the Billings International Airport, reduce vehicle and pedestrian crashes, decrease traffic congestion, and overall enhance the quality of life for Billings residents by increasing access to outdoor recreation opportunities.

In total, the City of Billings, Billings TrailNet, the Billings Chamber of Commerce, and Big Sky Economic Development have invested over thirteen million dollars in the project for studies, engineering, and construction for beginning phases.

I trust you will give this application fair and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,



Steve Daines  
United States Senator