VOLUSIA FLAGLER TPO
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

ES 2026-12

November 4, 2026

The Honorable [Name]
[Location]
[Location]

Dear [Congressman/Senator _____]:

On behalf of the Volusia-Flagler Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), I urge you to support H.R. 8870, the Building Unrivaled Infrastructure and Long-term Development for America's 250th (BUILD America 250) Act.

The BUILD America 250 Act supports the role MPOs have in helping federal transportation investments move from policy to results on the ground and includes important improvements that would strengthen regional transportation and give local communities better tools to plan and deliver transportation projects by:

- **Investing in the planning that makes projects possible** - Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) develop Long-Range Transportation Plans and fiscally constrained Transportation Improvement Programs that identify and advance local priority projects that meet national goals. The BUILD America 250 Act would increase Metropolitan Planning (PL) funding by roughly 9.6 percent from Fiscal Year 2026 to Fiscal Year 2027, giving MPOs greater funding certainty and the resources to deliver stronger plans that meet the long-term needs of their communities. This additional funding would provide support to our member governments for local initiatives and projects such as corridor planning, safety analysis, freight planning, and project development.

- **Improving project delivery** - The BUILD America 250 Act would reduce the local match for planning activities from 20 percent to 10 percent and expand the eligible uses of PL funds so MPOs can better support efficient project delivery. Lowering the match could mean greater ability to stretch limited local resources or additional funding available for other priorities.

- **Preserving regional and local access to federal transportation funding** - Local governments own, maintain, and operate nearly 75 percent of U.S. road miles, yet have access to only about 16 percent of federal transportation funding on average. The BUILD America 250 Act would make nearly 22 percent of federal transportation funding available to local governments, through bridge and safety program investments, reflecting the reality that many of the nation's transportation needs are identified and delivered at the local and regional level. Throughout our planning region, these investments could support priorities

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such as replacing aging locally owned bridges, improving safety along high-crash corridors, addressing congestion at key interchanges, supporting freight access, and improving connections between communities.

Planning is where projects begin, where local needs are translated into investment decisions, and where federal transportation dollars are positioned to deliver lasting results. By supporting the BUILD America 250 Act, you will help ensure that cities, counties, and regions have the resources and flexibility needed to deliver a transportation system that connects our neighborhoods, supports our local economies, and serves our residents and visitors every day.

The BUILD America 250 Act is also supported by the Central Florida MPO Alliance, representing six MPOs in Central Florida which is home to over 5.8 million residents and over 75 million annual visitors, and the Local Officials for Transportation (LOT) Coalition, representing more than 25,000 counties, cities, towns, MPOs, regional councils, and economic development organizations. Coalition members include the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO), the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO), the National Association of Counties (NACo), the National League of Cities (NLC), the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM), and the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC).

Thank you for your leadership and consideration. On behalf of the Volusia-Flagler TPO, I appreciate your commitment to strengthening the nation's transportation infrastructure and look forward to working with you as Congress advances the next surface transportation reauthorization.

Respectfully,

City of South Daytona Councilman Eric Sander
Volusia-Flagler TPO Board Chairperson

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