

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 11, 2019

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am pleased to write in support of the grant application submitted by City of New Rochelle through its application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's 2019 BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grants Program to construct the "LINC," an innovative project that converts an overbuilt, underutilized and hazardous highway (Memorial Highway) into a safe linear public open space with recreational uses, bicycle facilities and pedestrian amenities. In addition to enhancing safety and multi-modal transportation options, these improvements will help build stronger economic linkages between the struggling Lincoln Avenue neighborhood and burgeoning downtown while also attracting new investment and development activity in the surrounding area.

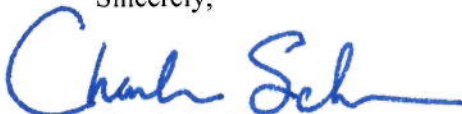
Memorial Highway was originally proposed to connect I-95 to the Hutchinson River Parkway and Cross County Parkway. Only the first phase was constructed, leaving an overabundance of infrastructure that delivers traffic from Exit 16 off I-95 to local community roads and cuts off a struggling and distressed neighborhood from the downtown and its various services. Memorial Highway is simply underutilized and does not function as originally intended.

The LINC will convert three roadways from two-way to one-way operations in order to accommodate the traffic that currently utilizes Memorial Highway, implement new signalization at key intersections, and construct the new bike and pedestrian areas on Memorial Highway, including on the Memorial Highway Overpass from the Cedar Street (Exit 16) ramps to the roundabout on Memorial Highway. These complete street improvements and the new bike, pedestrian and recreational space on Memorial Highway will transform the Lincoln Avenue neighborhood and New Rochelle as a whole.

Completion of the LINC is a high priority for New Rochelle, and significant planning, community involvement, and investment has already occurred on the project. For example, in addition to contributing its own resources, New Rochelle secured \$10 million from New York State in 2018 through the highly competitive Downtown Revitalization Initiative Program to implement projects that improve the Lincoln Avenue Corridor, including the LINC. However, in order to construct the best and most transformative project for the community, New Rochelle needs partnership and investment from the U.S. Department of Transportation. I applaud the City of New Rochelle for their foresight and sincerely hope the application meets with your approval.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me or my Grants Coordinator in Washington, DC office at 202-224-6542.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator