

Douglas A. Ducey  
Governor



Lisa A. Atkins  
Commissioner

## Arizona State Land Department

1616 West Adams, Phoenix, Arizona 85007  
(602) 542-4631

July 13, 2018

The Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

### **RE: Letter of Support for Pima County Aerospace Research Campus Rail Relocation Project and BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant**

Dear Secretary Chao,

The purpose and mission of the Arizona State Land Department ("ASLD") is to manage the State Trust lands that were granted by the federal government at statehood to support Arizona's K-12 schools and 12 other institutional beneficiaries. In consideration of ASLD's fiduciary responsibility to manage Arizona's State Trust lands for maximum return to our beneficiaries, I am writing to ask for your support of Pima County's ("County") application for a Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development ("BUILD") Transportation Discretionary grant for the County's Aerospace Research Campus Rail Relocation project (the "Project").

ASLD is a major land owner within the Project area, and the Project will provide critical rail access to large, undeveloped State Trust land parcels to support the development of location-appropriate industrial and employment uses in conformance with long-range planning for the Project area being undertaken by ASLD and the County. In addition, the Project will enhance regional road safety by reducing rail traffic at 20 at-grade crossings and redirecting rail traffic into a new corridor with grade-separated road crossings.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask for your support of Pima County's BUILD grant application for the Aerospace Research Campus Rail Relocation Project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Edelman".

Mark Edelman, AICP  
Director, Planning and Engineering

c: Greg Hitt; Pima County Capital Planning Manager