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June 8, 2019

Dean Haselhorst, Chairman
Ellis County Board of Commissioners
718 Main Street
Hays, KS 67601

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of Grow Hays, I write to support Ellis County's efforts to seek funding from the federal Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) discretionary grant program for the Northwest Business Corridor project. The Northwest Business Corridor provides four principal advantages to our community:

- Better access to federal highways for the transportation-dependent businesses located along the Corridor.
- Improved safety for the workers and visitors who travel the Corridor on a daily basis.
- A bypass route around the City of Hays for large loads that cannot safely pass under the I-70 bridge over U.S. Route 183.
- The potential for continued development of the business corridor, including new developments to serve the traveling public.

With the challenges faced in rural Kansas with population loss and economic stress the potential for continued development along the corridor is critical to our community. The economic impact of the corridor along with the safety issues that it resolves make this an essential project.

Please accept our support for this important project and feel free to include this letter with your grant application. We hope that the U.S. Department of Transportation will look favorably upon Ellis County's grant request. Do not hesitate to contact me if I can answer further questions about our support for the Northwest Business Corridor.

Sincerely,

Doug Williams
Executive Director