

Department of Commerce
1000 S.W. Jackson St., Suite 100
Topeka, KS 66612-1354



Phone: (785) 296-5298
Fax: (785) 296-5055
KansasCommerce.gov

David C. Toland, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

June 19, 2019

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the Kansas Department of Commerce (Commerce), 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 the state:

- 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.

Better access to federal highways for the transportation-dependent businesses located along the Corridor is particularly important to Commerce as the project will allow for additional development along the corridor. In addition, we support Ellis County's efforts as the improved access will have widespread benefit as the county, the region and the entire state will benefit from an economic development perspective.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David C. Toland". The signature is written in a cursive style.

David C. Toland
Secretary