

**Appendix J – Acadiana MPO TIP
Certification Letter**



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101 Jefferson St.
Lafayette, LA 70501
PO Box 3705
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337-806-9369
www.planacadiana.org

Me. Elaine L. Chao
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of
Transportation 1200 New
Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Ms. Chao,

The Acadiana Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is in support of Lafayette Consolidated Government's BUILD Grant application for improvements along University Avenue (LA 182). Funding through the BUILD Grant would enable LCG to complete this important gateway traversing a designated Opportunity Zone and connecting Interstate 10 to Lafayette's Downtown and the University of Louisiana. In addition, the project includes safety countermeasures to address transportation safety concerns identified by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.

The Acadiana MPO has worked closely with Lafayette Consolidated Government (LCG) on the development of the LA 182 (University Avenue) corridor which is an important project for our region. The initial Corridor (Federal Project No. H012025) study was funded with STP>200K funds administered by the MPO with LCG providing the local matching funds.

On May 15, 2019, the MPOs Transportation Policy Committee approved the transfer of \$4.6 million from dormant projects to fund engineering, environmental and construction of portions of the University Avenue Corridor.

On January 22, 2020, the Transportation Policy Committee approved phase one of the project Jeanne St. to W. Gilman Rd. (Federal Project No. H.013025) to be included on the Acadiana MPO TIP. It was then forwarded onto the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development for inclusion in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Pending the success of the LCG Build Grant Application the current project scope would be modified thru the proper AMPO TIP amendment process to include the project limits within the application.

We appreciate your consideration in providing funds to complete this critical project in our region

Sara Fawcett-Gary
Transportation Director
Acadiana Planning Commission