

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0912  
April 23, 2021

The Honorable Peter DeFazio  
Chairman  
Committee on Transportation  
And Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Transportation  
And Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chair DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

I am requesting funding for the Ridge Road Extension Phase 2B project in surface transportation reauthorization legislation.

The project sponsor for this project is the Pasco County Board of Supervisors and the project is located in Unincorporated Pasco County, FL 34638, between the Suncoast Parkway (State Highway 589) and US Hwy 41 (Land O'Lakes Boulevard).

The funding is designated for the construction and Construction Engineering Inspection (CEI) for Ridge Road Extension Phase 2B from Sunlake Boulevard to US Hwy 41. This last leg of Ridge Road Extension represents the final phase of a major transportation project that began in Pasco County in January 1992. Ridge Road Extension Phase 2B is 3.75 miles in length and will be constructed as:

- a) An offset 2-lane urban section of a future 4-lane section between Sunlake Boulevard and the CSX Railroad Tracks; and
- b) An offset 2-lane rural section of a future 4-lane section between the CSX Railroad Tracks and US Hwy 41 (Land O'Lakes Boulevard); and
- c) Include an 8' Multi-use Path and a 6' sidewalk along the entire length of the project.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is anticipated to have the following benefits: The Ridge Road Extension Phase 2B extends extending from east-to-west and will serve as a major evacuation route during a hurricane or other natural disaster. Ridge Road Extension is a critical transportation corridor in Pasco County, which has a limited number of east/west roads. This project represents an enhancement for overall safety and mobility within

West and Central Pasco County, and provides an additional hurricane evacuation route to the citizens who live in the coastal evacuation areas, including those in Pinellas County to the south.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,



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Gus M. Bilirakis  
Member of Congress  
Date: April 23, 2021