

Dr. Martha Santiago
Commissioner, District 4
Chair



330 W Church Street
Drawer BC01
P O Box 9005
Bartow, FL 33831-9005
Tel: (863) 534-6422
Fax: (863) 534-7655
MarthaSantiago@PolkFL.gov

Board of County Commissioners

March 3, 2026

The Honorable Sean P. Duffy
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: FDOT - Moving I-4 Forward Connected Corridor Infrastructure - BUILD Application

Dear Secretary Duffy,

On behalf of The Polk County Board of County Commissioners, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) as it seeks federal grant funding for Moving I-4 Forward's Connected Corridor Infrastructure Project. This project is essential to improving regional connectivity, safety, and the overall travel commute for residents and visitors throughout our community.

The proposed improvements are part of a corridor-wide series of improvements targeting one of central Florida's most heavily traveled highways. This corridor has become increasingly congested over time, resulting in delays, safety concerns, and diminished system reliability. The existing capacity of this facility is no longer adequate to meet present or future transportation demands.

The Moving I-4 Forward Program's Connected Corridor Infrastructure Project includes construction of a new intelligent connected highway system designed to interface with emerging transportation technologies, automatically detect and identify roadway hazards, and enhance FDOT's active management of the corridor. The project will improve vehicle throughput and system capacity optimizing existing infrastructure and will enhance safety by informing motorists of risks as they emerge in real-time.

The Polk County Commissioners are collectively committed to advancing, safe and efficient transportation options. This project aligns closely with the overall regional vision by reducing congestion, enhancing travel-time reliability, and improving community connectivity.

We fully support FDOT's application for BUILD funding and respectfully request your favorable consideration. This investment will provide lasting benefits for our region and the residents we serve.

Sincerely,

Dr. Martha Santiago, Chair
County Commissioner, District 4

Becky Troutman
Commissioner, District 1

Rick Wilson
Commissioner, District 2

Bill Braswell
Commissioner, District 3

Michael H. Scott
Commissioner, District 5