



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0916

March 13, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the SUNTrail Project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Manatee County Government, located at 1112 Manatee Ave W, Bradenton, Florida, 34205.

The funding would be used to develop Manatee County's first segment of the SUNTrail (Shared-Use Nonmotorized Trail) corridor in Downtown Bradenton. The project will create a multimodal trail connecting neighborhoods, parks, schools, commercial areas, and the Bradenton Riverwalk, providing safe transportation alternatives that encourage low-emission travel and expand access to public spaces and economic centers.

This project is an appropriate and responsible use of taxpayer dollars because the trail advances national goals for multimodal mobility, sustainable transportation, and active transportation infrastructure. By expanding access to walking and cycling infrastructure, it will promote healthier lifestyles, reduce traffic congestion, and enhance economic vitality, while serving as a foundational investment in future trail expansion and regional connectivity.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305 (a)(2).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vern Buchanan".

Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress