



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 Gateway Greenway Trail Project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Manatee County Government, located at 1112 Manatee Ave West, Bradenton, Florida, 34205.

The funding would be used to support the planning, design, land acquisition, and construction of a five-mile segment of the North/South Gateway Greenway Trail between County Road 675 and State Road 62, creating a 12-foot-wide shared-use path that fills a critical gap in the regional and statewide trail network, a recreational and active transportation component of the North/South Gateway Greenway Trail Project.

This project is an appropriate use of taxpayer resources because it advances national transportation and recreational priorities, encourages non-motorized travel, reduces congestion and emissions, and delivers significant public and economic benefits while leveraging local investments in adjacent trail segments. The project enhances multimodal mobility, supports eco-tourism, promotes public health, and strengthens Florida's connection to the Florida Gulf Coast Trail and SUNTrail systems.

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