



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

July 17, 2018

Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing in support of the City of Bloomington's application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's BUILD 2018 funding program to complete the City's priority East-West corridor – Hamilton Road. The application seeks \$10.05 million to complete the Hamilton Road corridor, safely connecting rural communities and the City's residents on the southwest side to jobs at many businesses, including one of the area's largest employers, State Farm.

Specifically, this project will mitigate congestion, enhance safety and reduce maintenance needs on the transportation system while improving quality of life and enhancing the area's economic opportunities. Because of the project, the City will close two at-grade crossings in the City, close an unsafe intersection that is a 5% accident location and eliminate one at-grade crossing for many of the region's motorists accessing State Farm Insurance. The completion of Constitution Trail, a multiuse facility, as part of the project will fill the gap and connect residents and tourists alike to recreational assets and jobs.

Moreover, The City is strongly committed to this project and is providing 30% of the funding through innovative financing that leverages the State of Illinois' recent increase in the motor fuel tax rate and the resulting increase in the share for local governments.

It is my hope that you will give the City of Bloomington's application full and fair consideration. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or my District Director, Brad Stotler, at (309)671-7027. I am grateful for your assistance and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Darin LaHood
Member of Congress