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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1313

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July 16, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am proud to support the application submitted by the city of Bloomington (Illinois) for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program to complete the city's East-West corridor – Hamilton Road.

These funds will allow the city to complete the Hamilton Road corridor, which will safely connect rural communities and the city's residents on the southwest side of the community to jobs at many businesses, including one of the area's largest employers, State Farm. 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.

Bloomington sits at the cross roads of three major interstate corridors, and is home to Illinois State University, State Farm Insurance Company, Country Companies and Rivian, a U.S. company producing cars of the future. Bloomington is a community in transition, rooted in its agricultural foundation and being home to the Illinois Farm Bureau, the Illinois Soybean Association and Country Companies insurance. Bloomington's neighbor, Normal, has been on the leading edge of changing how medium-sized cities think about transportation and the most efficient, environmentally friendly and cost-effective way for people to travel, completing an intermodal rail hub around its intercity passenger rail station in the last 10 years.

The city is strongly committed to this project and is providing 30 percent 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. For these reasons, I am proud to support this application.

Sincerely,



Rodney Davis
Member of Congress