

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1504

June 15, 2019

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing in support of the City of Bloomington’s application for application for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation. This federal funding will enable the City of Bloomington to complete Hamilton Road Corridor Project, which will safely and efficiently connect rural communities and the City’s residents on the southwest side to jobs and various other businesses and services.

Bloomington is a community in transition, rooted in its agricultural foundation. Bloomington’s neighbor, Normal, Illinois has been on the leading edge of transforming 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 development around its intercity passenger rail station in the last 10 years. Bloomington Normal is home to Illinois State University, the Illinois Farm Bureau, State Farm Insurance Company ranking 36th on the Fortune 500 list, and now home to Rivian, a U.S. company producing all electric vehicles. Bloomington is at the cross roads of 3 major interstate corridors, connecting with Indianapolis and the Quad Cities on Interstate 74, Chicago to St. Louis on Interstate 55 and Interstate 39 to Madison Wisconsin.

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. As a result 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.

Please give full and fair consideration to the City of Bloomington’s application. If you require additional information, please contact my Chicago Director, Clarisol Duque, at (312) 353-4952.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator