

October 23, 2019

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of Hanson Professional Services, I am writing to express our organization's support for the Bloomington, Illinois Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant application to complete Hamilton Road. The application requests \$5.325 million for the project, which will complete the Hamilton Road corridor on the south side of the city. Building the corridor will safely connect rural communities and City residents to jobs at many businesses, including one of the area's largest employers, State Farm.

Bloomington has many connections and assets that make access to efficient transportation vital to its success. It is at the cross roads of 3 major interstate corridors, connecting with Indianapolis and the Quad Cities on Interstate 74, Chicago and St. Louis on Interstate 55 and Interstate 39 to Madison, Wisconsin. Bloomington-Normal is home to Illinois State and Illinois Wesleyan Universities, State Farm Insurance Company, Country Companies and now Rivian, a U.S. company producing electric trucks and SUVs of the future.

This project will mitigate congestion, enhance safety and reduce maintenance needs on the transportation system while improving quality of life for existing residents and enhancing the area's economic opportunities. As a result of the project, the City will close two at-grade railroad crossings, close an unsafe intersection that is routinely one of the highest crash locations in the city and eliminate the need for some State Farm employees to traverse an at-grade railroad crossing during their commute. The project also plans to construct a gap in Constitution Trail, a city-wide multiuse facility that connects residents to jobs and tourists to recreational assets.

The City of Bloomington is strongly committed to the project and has committed \$2.325 million of local funds to the project. Given the funding commitment and the many public benefits associated with this project, I strongly urge you to give full and fair consideration to awarding a BUILD grant to help Bloomington improve safety and support local job growth. If you require additional information please contact our project manager, Kurt Bialobreski, at 309-713-1408.

Sincerely,

HANSON PROFESSIONAL SERVICES INC.



James Messmore, P.E.  
Senior Vice President  
Infrastructure Market Principal