



# Illinois Department of Transportation

Office of the Secretary

2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764

Telephone 217/782-6149

May 5, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation  
West Building  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20590-9898

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) supports the City of Bloomington's Hamilton Connection Project application for FFY 2020 discretionary funding through the "Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development" (BUILD) program. The application seeks \$5.24 million in federal BUILD funds. The total estimated cost of the Hamilton Connection Project is \$7.75 million.

The Project will enhance safety at US 150, Rhodes Lane and the Norfolk Southern Railway confluence and provide a reduced traffic load on the Interstate 55 Business route (Veterans Parkway). In addition, the project will facilitate multimodal travel by connecting the Constitution Trail multi-use path and create the potential for more safe and efficient mass transit connections. Finally, the project will boost economic development opportunities by enhancing access to existing employers and providing opportunities for new development along the completed Hamilton Road corridor

In short, improving the confluence will greatly improve the long-term efficiency and reliability of the movement of goods and people. This will boost economic vitality for numerous communities in the area and provide safer and more efficient travel for all.

Again, IDOT supports the City of Bloomington's request for BUILD funds for the Hamilton Connection project. If you have any questions or need additional information please contact Holly Bieneman at 217/557-4145 or by email at [holly.bieneman@illinois.gov](mailto:holly.bieneman@illinois.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Omer M. Osman".

Omer M. Osman, P.E.  
Secretary