



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

June 30, 2020

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 Transportation Discretionary Grants program to complete the City's Hamilton Road East-West Connection Project. The application seeks \$5,425,000 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. Upon completion of this project, the City will be able to close two at-grade crossings, 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 multi-use 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.

I appreciate your consideration and within all relevant rules and regulations, I urge support for this application. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or my District Director, Brad Stotler, at (309)671-7027.

Sincerely,

Darin LaHood
Member of Congress