

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 21, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

We are writing to express our support of the City of Bloomington's application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) discretionary grants program. Funding from this program will enable the City of Bloomington to complete the Hamilton Road East-West Connection Project.

The City of Bloomington is a critical piece of the region's transportation ecosystem. The City sits at the crossroads of three 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. Ensuring that the region's residents and businesses have access to reliable transportation systems is of great importance to the City. Through the completion of the Hamilton Connection Project, Bloomington endeavors to safely and efficiently connect rural communities and the City's residents on the southwest side to jobs and various businesses and services. This project has the potential to improve quality of life and fostering economic growth for the region. The project will also provide a multi-use connection for cars, pedestrians, cyclists and mass transit.

Federal funding for the Hamilton Road East-West Connection Project would support the core objectives of the BUILD grant program by mitigating congestion, enhancing safety and reducing maintenance needs on the transportation system. The City of Bloomington is strongly committed to the Hamilton Road East-West Connection Project and is providing 30% of the funding, to leverage a \$5.425 million in federal investment.

Please accept this letter of support for the City of Bloomington's application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) discretionary grants program. In keeping with your existing rules and regulations, we urge you to give their application full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator