

FERRERO

June 29, 2021

The Honorable Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

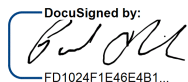
I am writing to express support for the City of Bloomington, Illinois' application for Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant funding. If approved the funding will support the city's Hamilton Road East-West Gap project, a major infrastructure development to complete a 7.2-mile east-west corridor connecting neighborhoods on the city's southwest side to jobs and other quality of life opportunities.

Specifically, this project will reduce congestion along the Interstate 55 business route (Veterans Parkway), enhance safety and reduce transportation system maintenance. It will close two at-grade crossings and an unsafe 5% accident location (Rhodes Lane/Morrissey Drive), support improved mass transit connections and complete Constitution Trail, a multiuse path connecting residents and tourists to workplaces, retail and dining opportunities. Finally, this development will improve access and spark new development along the completed Hamilton Road corridor. It is important to note that many of the neighborhoods impacted could be considered underserved.

Ferrero North America, part of the global confectionery company Ferrero Group, is one of the fastest growing confectionery companies in the United States. Located in the heart of Central Illinois, Bloomington is a place where Ferrero has decided to make a significant investment, including the construction of our first North American chocolate production plant. This investment in Bloomington will enable continued growth for Ferrero in North America and create significant opportunities for the Bloomington community. The Hamilton Road East-West Gap project would directly benefit our 300 employees, allow for expedited deliveries to the facility and significantly improve transportation safety.

Bloomington would stand ready to move forward with this project with federal assistance and we request that you award grant funds to help this community and grow American jobs. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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Paul Chibe
President and CEO
Ferrero North America