

August 25, 2017

Paul Baumer
Policy Analyst, Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 7th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Baumer,

Ford Motor Company lends our support of a joint application by Macomb County and the Cities of Sterling Heights and Warren, Michigan, for a \$130,100,000 Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant for the Mound Road Industrial Corridor Technology and Innovation Project to transform 9 miles of the 8-lane Mound Road Corridor in the Cities of Warren and Sterling Heights – the 3rd and 4th largest cities in Michigan with a combined population of 265,000– from a dilapidated, 30-year-old roadway to a next-generation complete streets project, offering reduced congestion, upgraded intelligent transportation systems, access to transit, improved bicycle and pedestrian paths, and a connection to the 1,273-mile Iron Belle Trail running from Detroit to the Wisconsin/Michigan border. The grant request would be matched by \$86.9 in non-federal funds from Macomb County and the Cities of Sterling Heights and Warren.

We have 3,500 employees in the City of Sterling Heights at our Sterling Axle Plant (located on Mound Road) and Van Dyke Transmission Plant. Mound Road is a major thoroughfare that most employees access to get to work and home. The current condition of the road creates potentially hazardous conditions for our employees and parts suppliers. Additionally, with the onset of autonomous vehicle technology, it is vital that basic infrastructure operate at the highest level with clear lane markings, signage, and smooth, safe roads.

The estimated total cost of the Mound Technology and Innovation Corridor Project is \$217.28 million. Consistent with the goals of the INFRA program, this transformative project will significantly improve the infrastructure – including next generation intelligent transportation systems deployment - on the Mound Road Corridor, thereby allowing workers and freight to move more efficiently through the corridor to the many nationally-critical employers located there. It will also improve access to alternative forms of transportation by constructing a contiguous bike/ped pathway along the corridor with links to nearby trails and add transit stops to the corridor.

I support our local community leaders as they work to replace critical infrastructure and improve the quality of life for the citizens of Eastern Michigan, an area which is working hard to maintain and attract vital manufacturing jobs for which a strong functioning transportation infrastructure is a key criterion. I would greatly appreciate your careful consideration of this regionally important grant application by Macomb County and the Cities of Sterling Heights and Warren, Michigan.

Sincerely,



Curt Magleby
Vice President
Government Affairs
Ford Motor Company