

Sander Levin

U.S. House of Representatives
9th Congressional District, Michigan

August 31, 2017

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary of Transportation
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write in strong support of the joint application for grant funding provided through the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) program submitted by Macomb County and the cities of Sterling Heights and Warren, Michigan, located in my congressional district. These municipalities seek \$130.1 million to construct a robust, transformative infrastructure project that will repair and revitalize an industrial corridor crucial to area businesses, residents, industry, and the region's economic vitality.

The project, known as the Mound Road Industrial Corridor Technology and Innovation Project, will overhaul nine miles of the eight-lane Mound Road Corridor in the cities of Warren and Sterling Heights from a 30-year old roadway plagued by potholes and a decaying roadbed to a next-generation commercial corridor. This nine-mile stretch of Mound Road connecting to I-696 and State Route M-59 is a major industrial corridor with more than 81,000 manufacturing jobs in a 10-mile radius and vital national automotive, aerospace, defense, and advanced manufacturing installations, including the Warren General Motors Technical Center, the Sterling Heights Ford Axle Plant, the Sterling Heights Chrysler Assembly Plant, and the U.S. Army's Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM) and Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC) facilities.

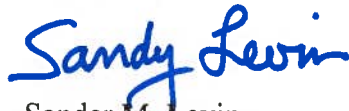
Consistent with the goals of the INFRA grant program, this project will significantly improve infrastructure and deploy innovative next generation intelligent transportation systems technology that will allow workers and freight to move more efficiently through the corridor to the nationally-critical employers located along Mound Road. The project will result in reduced congestion, upgraded infrastructure, greater safety, and easier access for aerospace, defense, and auto manufacturing employers and freight movement along the corridor.

It will also improve access to alternative forms of transportation by constructing a contiguous cycling and pedestrian pathway with links to nearby trails and additional transit stops. The deployment of cutting-edge transportation technology will also offer improved safety benefits. In addition, grant funding provided from INFRA will be matched with \$86.9 million from the local municipalities, representing a significant investment from the non-federal sponsors.



Completion of the Mound Round Industrial Corridor Technology and Innovation project is key to maintaining and attracting manufacturing jobs, as well as moving freight and people through the region. It will provide economic and safety benefits to the area, as well as repair critical transportation infrastructure that is long overdue, contributing to a collective national priority important to our overall economic prosperity. I strongly support this grant application and thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sandy Levin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress