



Macomb County Executive Mark A. Hackel

Mark F. Deldin
Deputy County Executive

October 12, 2017

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary of Transportation
400 7th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

This letter supports the application by the Macomb County Department of Roads on behalf of a local collaborative known as the Innovate Mound Project. This partnership consists of Macomb County, the City of Warren, and the City of Sterling Heights. We are seeking a Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grant and committing to fund a portion of the grant required Local Match, thereby fulfilling the requirements to be eligible for consideration for this grant.

Innovate Mound seeks to reconstruct Mound Road and install smart transportation technology to prepare for the future demands of this area. These nine (9) miles of road, hereafter called the corridor, is among the most densely populated manufacturing and research sites in Michigan. A recent economic impact study revealed that the corridor generates \$8.7 billion to Macomb County and assists with generating \$13.5 billion of additional economic impact in other regions of Michigan. The revitalization of this corridor will support over 80,000 jobs within a 10 Mile radius of Mound Road that include employment in automotive, aerospace, military, defense, and advanced manufacturing.

This upgrading and adoption of new smart technology of the transportation in this corridor is critical because it will ensure that leading-edge companies remain in the area. The corridor's strategic importance has long been recognized through its inclusion in the National Highway System and National Highway Freight Network. This capacity is also critical for our nation's defense, as it brings personnel and just-in-time materials to the U.S. Army Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM), and the Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC).

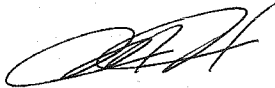
Failure to upgrade Mound Road will certainly have a negative impact on transportation in the Great Lakes region. Still, the reconstruction of the road may be secondary to the growing need to implement vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-traffic control device technologies. Additional safety measures will include deicing systems on the bridges and pedestrian-friendly components.

The Macomb County Department of Roads has estimated this project will cost \$217,000,000 for the entire nine mile stretch discussed in this grant application. Based on the total cost of the project the INFRA grant request is for \$130,100,000 of federal funds, which is sixty percent of the project costs. The forty percent local match will be supplied through a combination of funds from Macomb County, the

City of Warren, and the City of Sterling Heights with half of the local match provided by Macomb County and the other half split between the two cities based on the miles of Mound Road in each respective jurisdiction.

Macomb County and our partner communities are committed to providing the required matching funds for this project if the federal funds are awarded. My office stands ready to assist in any way to help make this project a reality.

Regards;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MAH', written in a cursive style.

Mark A. Hackel
Macomb County Executive