

September 25, 2017

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

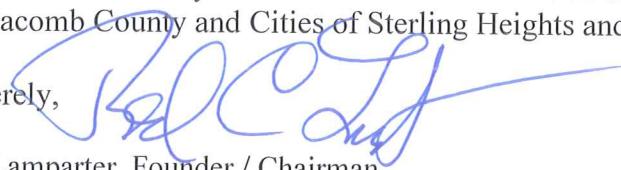
I write in support of a joint application by Macomb County and the Cities of Sterling Heights and Warren, Michigan, for a FY 2017 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (“TIGER 9”) grant and a FY 2018 Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-Term Achievement of National Efficiencies (FASTLANE) grant for the Mound Road Technology and Innovation Corridor 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 9 miles of Mound Road that connect I-696 and M-59 are a major industrial corridor – with over 81,000 manufacturing jobs in a 10-mile radius - featuring 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.

Estimated cost of the Mound Technology and Innovation Corridor Project is \$217.28 million. Consistent with the goals of the TIGER 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 strongly 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 that is working hard to maintain / attract vital manufacturing jobs for which a strong functioning transportation infrastructure is a key criterion. Your consideration of this regionally important grant application by Macomb County and Cities of Sterling Heights and Warren, Michigan would be appreciated.

Sincerely,


Ron Lamparter, Founder / Chairman
Defense Corridor Center for Collaboration and Synergy
7205 Sterling Ponds Court
Sterling Heights, Michigan 48312

