



August 29, 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 \$130,100,000 Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant for the Mound Road Industrial Corridor Technology and Innovation Project. This project will transform nine miles of the eight-lane Mound Road Corridor in the Cities of Warren and Sterling Heights – the third and fourth largest cities in Michigan with a combined population of 265,000 – from a 30-year-old roadway strewn with potholes and a decaying roadbed to a next-generation critical commercial corridor. Additionally, it will provide reduced congestion and greater safety for the aerospace, defense, and auto manufacturing employers on the corridor, as well as pedestrians, bicyclists and transit users.

The Mound Road Corridor connects I-696 and State Route M-59 and is a major industrial corridor. It contains more than 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 FCA US Sterling Heights Assembly Plant, and the U.S. Army's Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM) and Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC) facilities.

The estimated total cost of the Mound Technology and Innovation Corridor Project is \$217 million. Consistent with the goals of the INFRA grant program, this transformative project will significantly improve the infrastructure, including next generation intelligent transportation systems deployment, thereby allowing workers and freight to move more efficiently through the Mound Road Corridor. This project will also improve access to alternative forms of transportation by constructing a contiguous bike/pedestrian 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 Southeastern 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 grant application by Macomb County and the Cities of Sterling Heights and Warren, Michigan.

Sincerely,

Thomas Lindquist  
Director, MLM/Global Manufacturing Logistics