



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

KIRK T. STEUDLE  
DIRECTOR

August 25, 2017

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao, Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

Please accept this letter of support for federal grant funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Infrastructure for Rebuilding America, also known as INFRA, Grant Program, for the proposed reconstruction of Mound Road from I-696 to M-59.

The proposed nine miles of road to be reconstructed generates an economic impact of \$8.7 billion within Macomb County and \$13.5 billion within the state of Michigan. Within a ten-mile radius of the Mound Road corridor, job creation and retention exceeds 80,000 manufacturing jobs supporting national automotive, aerospace, military defense, and advance manufacturing businesses.

This project will provide benefits through the use of smart technology, such as the connected vehicles pilot project and traffic speed monitoring, which will make the movement of freight through the corridor more efficient by managing congestion. Further, the addition of non-motorized multi-use paths will improve the quality of life in the community.

Mound Road connects many manufacturing plants, including the General Motors Technical Center. Mound Road also provides a critical connection between the heavily traveled I-696 and M-59 corridors, which then connect to I-94 and I-75, two of the longest interstates in the country. The reconstructed corridor would improve the movement of goods within Michigan's Southeast region, as well as throughout the Midwestern portion of the United States.

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has worked with officials from the City of Sterling Heights, City of Warren, and Macomb County on the reconstruction of Mound Road from I-696 to M-59. MDOT supports the City of Sterling Heights' efforts to improve the infrastructure serving the economic growth and freight efficiency along the corridor.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any additional questions, please contact either me or David E. Wresinski, Director, Bureau of Transportation Planning, at 517-373-0343.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kirk T. Steudle".

Kirk T. Steudle  
Director

cc: David E. Wresinski  
Michael B. Kapp  
Mark Vanderpool

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BTP:IPD:KS:ec  
bcc: L. Mester  
P. Kent  
Executive File