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MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DIANA FARRINGTON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

August 31, 2017

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

To whom it may concern,

As the State Representative for the western half of Sterling Heights, I represent approximately six miles of the Mound Road corridor. The economic significance of this corridor can not be overstated. It is a cornerstone of the industrial culture in Southeast Michigan that is in dire need of safety and functional improvements.

Innovate Mound's redevelopment plan has taken input from county and local officials, as well as private businesses, to transform the Mound Road corridor into a next-generation complete streets project. This proposal has a unique trait in that it would benefit local manufacturing businesses as well as the U.S. Army's Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM) and Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC). The economic benefits of the corridor stretch beyond the immediate area, as made evident by Innovate Mound's impact study which indicates that nearly 220,000 jobs in Michigan are affected by this nine mile stretch of road.

With the estimated cost of the redevelopment coming in at \$217 million, the project will require multiple sources of funding. A grant from the INFRA program would provide significant aid in addressing this critical infrastructure issue. Michigan is committed to repairing its aging roads and bridges but it will require partnerships with private industry, as well as federal agencies, if large scale improvements like the redevelopment of the Mound Road corridor can be accomplished.

I whole-heartedly support Innovate Mound's bold redevelopment strategy, and I believe this project is an excellent applicant for the INFRA grant program. If I can be of any assistance during this process, please contact my office. Thank you for your consideration.

Gratefully,

Diana Farrington