

September 11, 2017

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

We understand Macomb County and the Cities of Sterling Heights and Warren, Michigan are applying for an INFRA Grant for the Mound Road Industrial Corridor Technology and Innovation Project. This project will significantly improve the corridor and include next generation intelligent transportation systems (ITS) deployment, thereby allowing workers and freight to move more efficiently to and from the many nationally-critical employers located there. It will also improve access to alternative modes of transportation by constructing a contiguous bicycle/pedestrian pathway along the corridor, with links to nearby trails, and increase transit stops along the corridor.

Portions of this project are currently listed in the *2040 Regional Transportation Plan for Southeast Michigan* and both cities have committed local matching funds and have broad community support for the project.

Mound Road, from I-696 and M-59, is a major industrial corridor – with over 81,000 manufacturing jobs in a 10-mile radius – featuring vital automotive, aerospace, defense, and advanced manufacturing installations, including the Warren General Motors Technical Center, Sterling Heights Ford Axle Plant, Sterling Heights Chrysler Assembly Plant, and U.S. Army's Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM) and Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC) facilities.

SEMCOG is pleased to support this project as it addresses many of the region's goals: providing a safer and more efficient transportation system; revitalizing the area and surrounding communities, and; encouraging economic development.

Please contact me at 313-324-3302 or [lomako@semcog.org](mailto:lomako@semcog.org) if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Lomako, AICP, CAE  
Executive Director  
SEMCOG