



## Office of the Mayor

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July 10, 2019

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: **Support for the City of Clinton's Drive to Prosperity: Manufacturing Drive/Bluff Boulevard Reconstruction BUILD Grant Application**

Dear Secretary Chao:

The City's proposed **Drive to Prosperity: Manufacturing Drive/Bluff Boulevard Reconstruction project** will enhance access to retail, manufacturing and essential services, including multiple healthcare providers, provide a safe route for all students (to include the new arrival of high school-aged international students in the Clinton STEM Academy), bolster pedestrian and bicyclist amenities, and support increased community vibrancy and better health outcomes.

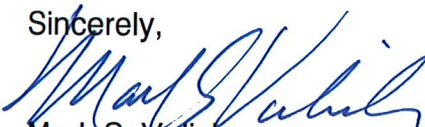
This roadway is an important component to Clinton's infrastructure, connecting the north and south parts of the community. The nearly 100 year old roadway is now stressed with capacity constraints and has seen 384 crashes in just the last 5 years alone, in addition to severe flooding incidents over the last few years.

This project includes the complete reconstruction of Manufacturing Drive and Bluff Boulevard from US Route 30 to 7th Avenue North. It includes numerous safety and environmental improvements to bring this road up to a good state of repair.

This project does not just improve the roadway surface, but improves the quality of life to residents and businesses along the corridor by including the infrastructure necessary for future implementation of utilities for both water and a high-speed fiber and broadband network. This infrastructure will position the City of Clinton to be a 21<sup>st</sup> century leader and serve as a primary gateway to the area that has been identified as an "Opportunity Zone" by the US Department of the Treasury.

The **Drive to Prosperity: Manufacturing Drive/Bluff Boulevard Reconstruction project** is a necessary and worthwhile investment which will have a profound effect on the future viability of the area. Consistent with the goals of the BUILD grant program, this project will improve safety, provide a good state of repair, foster innovation, and provide a much-needed boost to economic vitality for not only the City but the surrounding region as well. For these reasons I fully support this project.

Sincerely,



Mark S. Vulich  
Mayor