

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1501

June 24, 2019

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

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to express support for the timely consideration of the City of Clinton's 2019 BUILD grant application. The City's proposed **Drive to Prosperity: Manufacturing Drive/Bluff Boulevard Reconstruction** project will enhance access to essential healthcare services, provide a safe route for students from Clinton STEM Academy's Campus to the high school, 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 nearly 400 crashes in just the last five 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 only improve the roadway surface, but also improves the quality of life for residents and businesses along the corridor by including the infrastructure necessary for future implementation of a high-speed fiber and broadband network. This infrastructure will position the City of Clinton as a primary gateway to the area, which has been identified as an "**Opportunity Zone**" by the US Department of the Treasury.

Consistent with the goals of the BUILD grant program, this project will improve safety, provide a state of good repair, foster innovation, and provide a much-needed boost to economic vitality for the City and the surrounding region. For these reasons, I strongly encourage you to give timely consideration to the City of Clinton's BUILD grant application.

Sincerely,



Abby Finkenauer
Member of Congress