



AMVETS POST #28

William J. Forsee Post

1317 South 17th Street

Clinton, IA 52732



6/21/18

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:

I am proud to support the 2018 BUILD grant application submitted to you by the City of Clinton. The City's proposed **Drive to Prosperity: Manufacturing Drive/Bluff Boulevard Reconstruction** project will enhance economic development in our rural Clinton community, provide access to essential services to include broadband, fiber optics, enhanced storm water drainage and most of all provide a safe route, bolster pedestrian and bicyclist amenities, and support increased community vibrancy and better health outcomes. This project does not just improve the roadway surface but improves the quality of life to residents and business to include ensuring the older Veterans can travel safely to the place they can find comfort and solace.

The ability to improve this nearly 100 years old roadway that has been witnessed to more than 400 crashes in just the last 5 years alone, including an accident my father was in which resulted in his death. In addition, there have been several severe flooding incidents, for these reasons and more it is vital for improvements to be made to this roadway. As the Commander of the AMVETS Post 28, which has been located off Manufacturing Drive and Bluff Blvd for over 70 years, it is important that our Veterans population have a safe road to travel. The accessibility, with the completion of the project, will definitely have a positive impact on the number of veterans that would join and attend functions. We have over 400 members currently and have events almost daily to support our veterans. Military Veterans know the value of not only good roads, proper drainage but most of all accessibility.

The **Drive to Prosperity: Manufacturing Drive/Bluff Boulevard Reconstruction** project is a necessary and worthwhile investment which will have an incredible impact on the future viability of the area. Consistent with the goals of the BUILD grant program, this project will improve safety, provide good a 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,

Cindy Hufford
AMVETS Post #28 Commander