

Director's Office

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June 12, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

I would like to extend my support to the City of Clinton's application for the BUILD Discretionary Grant (BUILD Grant). The City's proposed project, known as the **Drive to Prosperity: Manufacturing Drive/Bluff Boulevard Reconstruction**, is vital to the transportation connectivity and economy of not only the city but of the entire region.

Completing the Manufacturing Drive and Bluff Boulevard reconstruction project – a total reconstruction and enhancement of the alignment from US Route 30 to 7th Avenue North – will ensure the safe, efficient movement of people and goods for decades to come. It will also serve as the primary gateway to the area identified as an **“Opportunity Zone” by the US Department of the Treasury.**

Project benefits include:

- Maintain community access to jobs
- Restores a major truck route
- Restores structural integrity of key creek crossings to mitigate flooding incidents
- Enhances multi-modal transportation and promotes walkability and safe bicycling route throughout the corridor
- Provides safe route for students from the Clinton STEM Academy's Campus to the high school
- Supports a growing downtown residential community, including low income housing
- Improving connectivity to neighborhoods and communities throughout the metro area and beyond
- Includes innovative and sustainable green infrastructure improvements that will reduce storm water impacts, maintenance costs and avoid a significant increase in electricity costs.

I am pleased to support the City of Clinton's BUILD Grant application for the **Drive to Prosperity: Manufacturing Drive/Bluff Boulevard Reconstruction**. This project is important to the economic vitality of the region; it will improve the quality of life and allow the City to improve the condition of key infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Lowe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" and last name "Lowe" clearly distinguishable.

Mark Lowe
Director