

IOWA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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July 2, 2018

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:

On behalf of the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA), it is my pleasure to submit this letter of support for the City of Clinton's application for funding through the US Department of Transportation's BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant Program. The City of Clinton's BUILD Grant application is for the **Drive to Prosperity: Manufacturing Drive/Bluff Boulevard Reconstruction**.

The IEDA's mission is to strengthen the economic and community vitality of communities across our state. A strong transportation network is imperative to our success. Completing the Manufacturing Drive and Bluff Boulevard reconstruction project – a total reconstruction and enhancement of the alignment from US Route 30 to 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue North – will ensure the safe, efficient movement of people and goods for decades to come.

The BUILD-supported reconstruction project will allow the City of Clinton to simultaneously improve the safety and capacity of the corridor all while making several environmental enhancements in the area. The project will also improve access to essential services, including multiple healthcare providers, a safe route for students from Clinton STEM Academy's Campus to the high school and will bolster pedestrian and bicyclist amenities, supporting both increased community vibrancy and better health outcomes. Furthermore, the project will include the infrastructure necessary for future implementation of a high-speed fiber and broadband network, which will position our community 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.

For the IEDA specifically, the BUILD-supported reconstruction project demonstrates the City of Clinton's commitment to creating an environment where its citizens and businesses can thrive. This project is important to the economic vitality of the region as it will improve the quality of life and allow the City to improve the condition of key infrastructure that is integral to economic development.

Sincerely,



Debi V. Durham  
Director

