

June 27, 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:

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 access to essential services, fix huge drainage issues, provide a safe route for employees, patients and visitors to come to Mercy Clinton, bolster pedestrian and bicyclist amenities, and support increased community vibrancy and improve health outcomes.

Mercy Clinton South Campus has been located on Bluff Blvd for more than 125 years and we know firsthand how important this would be to complete this project. Individuals who rely on Mercy Clinton should be afforded safe travel to and from appointments and other health services. The intersection at Bluff and 7th Ave South is extremely busy and can be confusing to drivers. It's my understanding that this road that dates back to the early days of the original Agatha Hospital. The road has been witness to more than 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.

This project does not just improve the roadway surface but improves the quality of life to those relying on Mercy Clinton and surrounding area by adding high-speed fiber and broadband network along the corridor. This infrastructure, which will position the City of Clinton to be a 21st century leader. It also includes numerous safety and environmental improvements to bring this road up to a good state of repair.

The **Drive to Prosperity: Manufacturing Drive/Bluff Boulevard Reconstruction** project is a necessary and worthwhile investment which will have an intense 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,



Amy Berentes
CEO