

April 29, 2020

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 Oskaloosa's **Oskaloosa Bypass Planning Study** BUILD Grant Application

Dear Secretary Chao:

Ajinomoto Health & Nutrition North America, Inc. enthusiastically supports the City of Oskaloosa and Mahaska County's application for funding through the US Department of Transportation's BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant Program.

Ajinomoto's mission is to provide a stable place of employment for our team members and support the local communities. A strong transportation network is imperative to our success. Completing the planning study to develop a bypass along the east side of the City of Oskaloosa will ensure the safe, efficient movement of people and goods for decades to come.

The BUILD-supported planning study will allow the City of Oskaloosa, Mahaska County, in partnership with the Mahaska Chamber and Development Group, to prepare a plan that will evaluate the safety and capacity of the corridor, enhance safe and efficient freight transport avoiding urban areas, improve response times for emergency vehicles to essential services - including healthcare providers, provide a safer route for students from William Penn University, and bolster pedestrian and bicyclist amenities, supporting both increased community vibrancy and better health outcomes.

Ajinomoto's first priority is the safety of our team and our communities. The BUILD-supported project will allow us to reduce heavy truck traffic through the City of Oskaloosa. We shuttle up to twelve truckloads per day from our Eddyville plant site to our Oskaloosa warehouse located at 2711 South 35<sup>th</sup> street. Our Oskaloosa warehouse ships up to twenty loads per day, not including less than truckload (LTL) shipments. Including LTLs, our warehouse could have up to thirty-two semi's driving through residential areas to get to the warehouse from the highway. By being able to take an alternate, more direct route, we can improve the safety of the families in the residential areas.

We are pleased to support the City of Oskaloosa and Mahaska County's BUILD Grant application for the **Oskaloosa Bypass Planning Study**. This project is important to the economic vitality of the region; it will improve the quality of life and allow the City and Mahaska County to improve the condition of key infrastructure.

Sincerely,

*Bill MacQueen 4/29/2020*

**Bill MacQueen**



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