



GARDEN & ASSOCIATES, LTD.

1701 3rd Avenue East, Suite 1 • P.O. Box 451 • Oskaloosa, IA 52577

Phone: 641.672.2526 • Fax: 641.672.2091

April 17, 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:

Garden & Associates, LTD. (G&A) 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.

G&A's mission is to engineer a better Iowa and help build strong communities. As a civil engineering and surveying consulting firm which has been serving southern Iowa for over 70 years, a strong transportation network is imperative to our success. Completing the planning study to develop bypasses 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 the William Penn University, and will bolster pedestrian and bicyclist amenities, supporting both increased community vibrancy and better health outcomes.

For G&A specifically, the BUILD-supported project will provide better access for employees and clients to our Oskaloosa office, which is located on the east side of town just off of Highway 23. Efficient transportation is essential in keeping Oskaloosa a vibrant and growing community. The development of local services and entertainment options adds to the quality of life for our team members, giving us better opportunity to find and retain quality professional staff. Economic development is also a priority for our company as the need for our services is driven by site and infrastructure development.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bradley J. Uitermarkt'.

Bradley J. Uitermarkt
President

ENGINEERS AND SURVEYORS
OSKALOOSA, IOWA CRESTON, IOWA