



Kim Reynolds
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Adam Gregg
LT. GOVERNOR

April 23, 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:

I am proud to support the BUILD grant application submitted to you by the City of Oskaloosa. The City's proposed Oskaloosa Bypass Planning Study project will allow the City of Oskaloosa, Mahaska County and the Mahaska Chamber and Development Group to prepare a plan that will enhance the safety and capacity of the corridor, enhance safe and efficient freight transport avoiding urban areas, improve response times by emergency vehicles to provide essential services, including healthcare providers, a safe route for students from the William Penn University and will bolster pedestrian and bicyclist amenities, supporting both increased community vibrancy and better health outcomes. Furthermore, the study will include determining the potential infrastructure necessary for future implementation of a high-speed fiber and broadband network, which will position our community to be a 21st century leader.

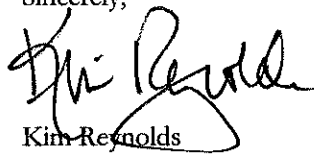
This planning study is an important component for developing the transportation infrastructure, connecting the north and south parts of the community while reducing the significant truck traffic that currently has to navigate through State Highways that traverse through the urban and residential parts of the City. This traffic not only creates safety concerns for the residents, but also is an impediment to fast and efficient movement of goods and products that are locally produced and exported across the United States and globally to at least 160 countries. This planning study will evaluate potential additional bypass routes in addition to the existing and proposed bypasses that can allow the community to better plan for economic, industrial and residential development. The plan will also evaluate numerous safety, environmental improvements to the area in addition to evaluating various pedestrian and bike trails and access improvements.

This study will not just focus on improving the transportation infrastructure but will also focus on improving the quality of life to residents and business by evaluating the infrastructure necessary for future implementation of a high-speed fiber and broadband network. This plan will position the City of Oskaloosa to be a 21st century leader and plan for economic development and better quality of life for the citizens of the City and Mahaska County.

The Oskaloosa Planning Study is a necessary and worthwhile investment which will have a profound effect 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,

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

Kim Reynolds
Governor of Iowa