



May 4, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the Musco Team I am pleased to offer this letter of support for the City of Oskaloosa application for funding through the US Department of Transportation's BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant Program.

IA Highway 23 is a key transportation link for Mahaska Community businesses located along the corridor and in the Industrial Park. The Industrial Park and surrounding area are home to advanced manufacturing businesses who provide high quality jobs. About 70 percent of the industries located here are exporters and, according to our 2019 existing business and industry survey, 95 percent of our manufacturers plan to introduce new products and services within the next two years. New product development and export market opportunities are exciting for our economy and increase the need for transportation improvements.

For Musco specifically, the BUILD-supported project will provide an improved route for trucks traveling between Muscatine and the Musco Specialty Operation in Oskaloosa, as well as the Musco Mobile facility located on IA 23. Musco's continued growth will result in more truck traffic to and from our facilities. The study and a redesigned Southeast Connector will provide safety and efficiency improvements to help make our companies, community and Musco Team successful.

Completing the proposed planning study will:

- 1) allow the City of Oskaloosa, Mahaska County, and the Mahaska Chamber and Development Group to evaluate the safety and capacity of the corridor;
- 2) help define a more direct connection between US 63 south of Oskaloosa and IA 23 southeast of the community, which serves our Industrial Park;
- 3) provide the linkage required to enable the Oskaloosa Industrial Park to become a certified site;
- 4) divert heavy truck traffic away from residential areas, making it safer for vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian traffic;
- 5) reduce freight transport through the downtown; and,
- 6) provide William Penn University students safer crossing through campus on US 63.

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 County to improve the condition of key infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe P. Crookham".

Joe P. Crookham
President