

June 22, 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:

O. C. Trucking 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.

O. C. Trucking is a dedicated cargo hauler for Cargill and makes dozens of trips every day between Cargill's Eddyville and Cedar Rapids facilities. 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 O. C. Trucking specifically, The MODES project will be another link in the regional transportation network for efficient movement of freight and public between areas of economic development, including Opportunity Zones.

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,

Larry Keim  
Facility Manager

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Keim", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.