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July 12, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for the **Mahaska Oskaloosa Driving Success (MODES) Planning Study RAISE Grant Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The City's proposed **Mahaska Oskaloosa Driving Success (MODES) Planning Study** is an exciting opportunity for our community. The MODES Planning Study touches upon many priorities for our community such as enhancing access to retail, manufacturing, multiple healthcare providers, and providing a safer route for all community members that walk, run, or ride on our numerous sidewalks, roads and trails. The MODES Planning Study will also help our community achieve safer, more efficient, and faster routes for trucks delivering vital goods manufactured in Oskaloosa and the surrounding area. These goods are delivered and used not just in Iowa, but across the globe and on every continent but one.

The MODES Planning Study is an important component to the City, County, and private industry partners as we look to effectively connect our community by rerouting traffic around the current US HWY 63, Iowa HWY 92 and Iowa HWY 23 routes that run through the heart of the community. The current routes require trucks and other heavy vehicles to travel through the center of Oskaloosa's historic downtown. The routes cause them to increase trip times (increased costs) and encounter additional safety hazards as they work through an urban setting that includes traffic signals, increased vehicle traffic, and pedestrians/pedestrian crossings. The crash rate for the current routes within the City is 20% higher than Statewide average for Urban Areas; a statistic the City, County, and Iowa DOT are working to reduce in this partnership. The heavy truck traffic also adversely affects the quality of life for those who live, work or play within our Historic Downtown District with additional noise pollution, vehicle exhaust, and safety conflicts.

The MODES Planning Study not only helps to improve transportation infrastructure, but it will also provide a planning blueprint to improve the quality of life for residents and businesses along the corridor. This is accomplished by providing the City and County a guide for updating current and future land use and zoning plans that are outdated and past their shelf-life. Updated plans are important to our current industries as well as future/potential industries that contemplate making investments in their facilities and expand





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workforce that live in and around our community. Continued expansion by our industry partners helps the community provide a natural landing place for graduates of William Penn University who want to call Oskaloosa and Mahaska County their home, or for those individuals that are seeking to relocate to area.

The MODES Planning Study is a necessary and worthwhile investment that will carry a long lasting and meaningful impact on the viability of our community. Consistent with the goals of the RAISE grant program, this study will also be an important milestone in the project development process as we work to further develop required transportation infrastructure that improves safety, fosters innovation, and provides a much-needed boost to economic vitality for not only the City but the surrounding region as well. For these reasons I support this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Krutzfeldt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

David Krutzfeldt  
Mayor

