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July 8, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am proud to support the RAISE grant application submitted to you by the City of Clinton, Iowa. The City's proposed project, known as the Drive to Prosperity: Manufacturing Drive/Bluff Boulevard Reconstruction, will enhance access to essential healthcare services, provide a safe route for students from Clinton STEM Academy's Campus to the high school, bolster pedestrian and bicyclist amenities, and support increased community vibrancy and better health outcomes.

This roadway is an important component to Clinton's infrastructure, connecting the north and south parts of the community. The nearly 100-year-old roadway is now stressed with capacity constraints and has seen nearly 400 crashes between 2015-2019 alone, in addition to severe flooding incidents over the last few years. This project includes the complete reconstruction of Manufacturing Drive and Bluff Boulevard from US Route 30 to 7th Avenue North. It includes numerous safety and environmental improvements to bring this road up to a good state of repair.

This project does not only improve the roadway surface, but also improves the quality of life for residents and businesses along the corridor including designated Areas of Persistent Poverty (Census Tracts 1 and 3). In addition to enhanced pedestrian safety, the corridor improvements will include adding infrastructure necessary for future implementation of a high-speed fiber, broadband network. This infrastructure will position the City of Clinton as a primary gateway to the area, which has been identified as an "Opportunity Zone" by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

The Drive to Prosperity: Manufacturing Drive/Bluff Boulevard Reconstruction project 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 RAISE 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.

I would appreciate your thorough and expeditious consideration for Clinton, in accordance with all rules and regulations. Please forward your response to Emily Gaard in my Des Moines office at 733 Federal Building, 210 Walnut Street, Des Moines, IA 50309 or by phone at (515) 284-4574. Emily may also be reached by email at Emily_Gaard@ernst.senate.gov.

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Sincerely,


Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator

JE/EG

CITY OF CLINTON, IOWA
DRIVE TO PROSPERITY: MANUFACTURING DRIVE AND BLUFF BLVD.
WWW.DRIVETOPROSPERITY.COM
RAISE GRANT PROJECT BENEFITS

KEY BENEFITS:

Improved Safety: Reduce traffic crashes by 50% (239 crashes in 2015-2019, including 2 fatalities) by converting Bluff Blvd to 3-lane roadway, and widening Manufacturing Drive to a 3-lane roadway. Intersections will be aligned to right angles in order to improve sight distances at many intersections along both streets.

State of Good Repair: Manufacturing Drive and Bluff Blvd. is the 2nd busiest street in the City (13,000 VPD traffic), yet lacks good repair in stretches, especially along sections of the road where pavement is nearly 100 years old.

Economic Competitiveness: This corridor is a major arterial through the heart of the City, improvements will increase efficiencies of movement of people and goods to business, saving money and stimulating further development of the area. The corridor serves 116 businesses utilizing more than 6 million Sq. Ft. of space and more than 3,600 employees.

Environmental Protection: Treatment of contaminated storm-water runoff, separation of storm and sanitary sewer, flood mitigation, bridge elevation over high water marks, reduced vehicle emissions, LED streetlights, solar powered pedestrian pathway lighting, permeable pavement on side streets, tree planting, and use of recycled pavement materials are examples of environmental benefits.

Quality of Life: Expanded access to commercial areas of the City for residents, increasing safety, capacity, and likely volume to destinations such as Wal Mart, Wild Rose Casino, Hobby Lobby, Kohl's, Aldi, one of the largest employers, Nestle Purina, various elementary, secondary, and post-secondary educational institutions, and health care facilities. Also, addition of multi-modal enhancements such as bike trails, sidewalks, and accessible bus-stops. The US Department of Treasury has designated a portion of the area served by this project as an Opportunity Zone and the project benefits two census tracts identified as Areas of Persistent Poverty.

Innovation: Applying multiple innovative strategies such as roundabouts, solar powered walkway lighting, permeable pavement, sidewalks with alternative materials, and heat trace elements will create many benefits relating to cost, safety, sustainability, and efficiency. City proposes to use the Iowa DOT A+B bidding process per FHWA SEP-14.

Partnership: This project gives the City an opportunity to partner with a variety and potential extensive number of local companies, including utility companies.

Project Readiness: Technical feasibility, project schedule, required approvals, and project risks and mitigation strategies have all been evaluated and determined to not be of issue to this project. Manufacturing Drive design currently underway.

FUNDING (100% possible from grant): (45%/55% Grant/Local Match) (Classified as a RURAL Project per the RAISE Grant NOFO)

- City of Clinton: \$11.7 million
- State of Iowa: \$3.9 million
- Iowa Water (Private Utility): \$2.9 million
- BUILD Grant: \$15 million
- Total Project Cost: \$33.5 million

PROJECT SCHEDULE:

- Grant Approved: October 2021
- Design: May 2022 to May 2022 (South Bluff Blvd)
- Bid Letting: March 2022/December 2022 (Manufacturing Drive/Bluff Blvd)
- Construction: July 2022 to December 2023