



Office of the Mayor

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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 City of Clinton's **Drive to Prosperity: Manufacturing Drive/Bluff Boulevard Reconstruction RAISE Grant Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The City's proposed **Drive to Prosperity: Manufacturing Drive/Bluff Boulevard Reconstruction project** will enhance access to retail, manufacturing and essential services, including multiple healthcare providers, provide a safe route for all students (to include the new arrival of high school-aged international students in the Clinton STEM Academy), 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 384 crashes in just the last 5 years alone, in addition to severe flooding incidents over the last few years.

Businesses along the corridor include Nestle Purina, currently conducting a \$140 million expansion that includes 73 new positions, and Timken Drives, currently expanding an existing building for approximately \$1.4 million, locating just off the corridor and will have 84 new positions. Finally, a brand new 231-unit apartment complex is being built by Diamond Builders near Hwy 30 and right off Manufacturing Drive.

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 just improve the roadway surface but improves the quality of life to residents and businesses along the corridor by including the infrastructure necessary for future implementation of utilities for both water and a high-speed fiber and broadband network. This infrastructure will position the City of Clinton to be a 21st century leader and serve as a primary gateway to the area that has been identified as an "Opportunity Zone" by the US Department of the Treasury. The project also benefits Area of Persistent Poverty by removing barriers and improving access.

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 a good 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,

Scott Maddasion
Mayor
SM/lf