

June 23, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary, United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support of the City of Clinton, IA – **Drive to Prosperity: Manufacturing Drive/Bluff Boulevard Reconstruction** 2021 RAISE Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I would like to extend my support to the City of Clinton’s application for the RAISE Discretionary Grant (RAISE Grant). The City’s proposed project, known as the **Drive to Prosperity: Manufacturing Drive/Bluff Boulevard Reconstruction**, is vital to the transportation connectivity and economy of not only the city but of the entire region.

Completing the Manufacturing Drive and Bluff Boulevard reconstruction project – a total reconstruction and enhancement of the alignment from US Route 30 to 7th Avenue North – will ensure the safe, efficient movement of people and goods for decades to come. It will also serve as the primary gateway to the area identified as an **“Opportunity Zone” by the US Department of the Treasury.**

Project benefits include:

- Maintain community access to jobs
- Restore a major truck route
- Restore structural integrity of key creek crossings to mitigate flooding incidents
- Enhance multi-modal transportation and promotes walkability and safe bicycling route throughout the corridor
- Provide safe route for students from the Clinton STEM Academy’s Campus to the high school
- Support a growing downtown residential community, including low income housing
- Improve connectivity to neighborhoods and communities throughout the metro area and beyond
- Improve access to jobs and schools for the two census tracts that have been identified as Areas of Persistent Poverty by the US Census Bureau
- Include innovative and sustainable green infrastructure improvements that will reduce storm water impacts, maintenance costs and avoid a significant increase in electricity costs.

I am pleased to support the City of Clinton’s RAISE Grant application for the **Drive to Prosperity: Manufacturing Drive/Bluff Boulevard Reconstruction**. This project is important to the economic vitality of the region; it will improve the quality of life and allow the City to improve the condition of key infrastructure.

Sincerely,



Scott C. Marler, Director