

TRI-COUNTY SPECIAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
West Building – 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

September 30, 2019

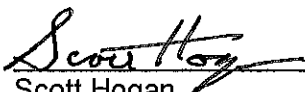
Dear Madam Secretary:

On behalf of Tri-County Special Education Association, I am writing to express support for the City of Bloomington's Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant to complete the City's priority East-West corridor – Hamilton Road. The application requests \$5.325 million to complete the Hamilton Road corridor, safely connecting rural communities and the City's residents on the southwest side to jobs, retail and dining opportunities, and recreational assets throughout Bloomington.

This project will mitigate congestion, enhance safety and reduce maintenance needs on the transportation system while improving quality of life and enhancing the area's economic opportunities. As a result of the project, the City will close three at-grade crossings in the City and close an unsafe intersection that is a 5% accident location (Rhodes Lane / Morrissey Drive). The project will also result in the completion of Constitution Trail, a multiuse facility, filling an existing gap in the trail and connecting residents and tourists alike to jobs, retail and dining opportunities, and recreational assets.

Given the local commitment and the many public benefits associated with this project, I strongly urge you to award a BUILD grant to help Bloomington improve safety and grow American jobs. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Scott Hogan
Executive Director