



SENATOR SALLY J. TURNER
44TH SENATE DISTRICT

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July 8, 2021

The Honorable Secretary Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write in support of Bloomington, Illinois' application for Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant funding. If approved, the funding will support a major infrastructure development that will complete a 7.2-mile east-west corridor connecting neighborhoods, several underserved, on the city's southwest side to jobs and other quality of life opportunities.

This project will reduce congestion along the Interstate 55 business route, enhance safety, and reduce transportation system maintenance. It will close two at-grade crossings and an unsafe 5% accident location, support improved mass transit connections, and complete a multiuse path connecting residents and tourists to workplaces, retail, and dining opportunities. Finally, this development will improve access to existing employers and spark new development along the completed Hamilton Road corridor.

Located in the heart of Central Illinois, Bloomington is home to Illinois Wesleyan University, as well as several nationally recognized companies including State Farm Insurance, ranked 39th on the 2021 Fortune 500 list, Country Financial, Beer Nuts, and Ferrero North America, which will be home to the company's first North American chocolate production plant. The city is located at the crossroads of three major interstate corridors, connecting with Indianapolis and the Quad Cities on Interstate 74, Chicago to St. Louis on Interstate 55, and Interstate 39 to Madison, Wisconsin and serves as an economic center to communities across the region.

With federal assistance, Bloomington stands ready to move forward with this project. I encourage you to award grant funds to help this community improve local transportation safety and grow American jobs. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sally J. Turner".

Sally J. Turner
State Senator, 44th District