



July 1, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express support for the City of Bloomington, Illinois' application for Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant funding. If approved the funding will support the city's Hamilton Road East-West Gap project, a major infrastructure development to complete a 7.2-mile east-west corridor connecting neighborhoods on the city's southwest side to jobs and other quality of life opportunities.

This development will reduce congestion along the Interstate 55 business route (Veterans Parkway), enhance safety and directly supports our mission "to improve the economic well-being of agriculture" by reducing travel time and congestion on local roads allowing for more efficient transportation of agricultural products. It will also connect the region's rural communities with important goods and services found in one of the city's primary business and retail centers.

The City of Bloomington stands ready to move forward with this project with federal assistance and we request that you award grant funds to help this community improve local transportation safety, grow American jobs and support the numerous farming families who live and work in the region.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU®

Richard L. Guebert, Jr.  
President



ILLINOIS AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION®

1701 Towanda Avenue • P.O. Box 2901 • Bloomington, Illinois • 61702-2901  
Phone: 309.557.2111 • Fax: 309.557.2559 • www.ilfb.org

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