

# United States Senate

April 6, 2020

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

## VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

Secretary Chao:

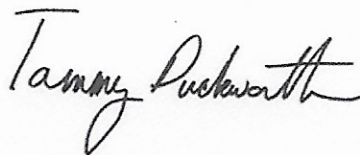
I write to express my support for Macon County and the City of Decatur's joint application to the FY 2020 Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) discretionary grant program offered by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). Funding through this program will enable the City of Decatur to replace the Reas Bridges as part of the larger East Beltway project.

Macon County and the City of Decatur, located in Central Illinois, are home to two Class I railroads, two short line rail roads, major production facilities for two Fortune 500 companies, a large agricultural products producer and hundreds of family farms. Ensuring a reliable supply chain for manufacturers and the agricultural industry depends on infrastructure that can support the efficient movement of freight. Currently, the structurally deficient Reas Bridges over Lake Decatur pose significant safety and efficacy concerns for heavy trucks carrying freight through the region. Macon County and the City of Decatur propose replacing those bridges with transition roadways to match the existing roads.

As a U.S. Senator and a member of the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, I have made modernizing Illinois' transportation and infrastructure systems a top priority. INFRA funding for the East Beltway project will increase access to the industrial base, improve the supply chain reliability for industry stakeholders, enhance freight mobility, expand access to large metropolitan areas and support economic growth for the entire region.

Please accept this letter of support for Macon County and the City of Decatur's joint application to the INFRA 2020 grant program. In keeping with your existing rules and regulations, I urge you to give their application your full and fair consideration. If you have any questions, please contact my State Director, Cameron Joost, at (217) 886-3506.

Sincerely,



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator