

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-1313

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

July 12, 2019

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am proud to support the Joint Venture of Macon County and the City of Decatur Illinois' BUILD grant application for the replacement of the Reas Bridges outside of Decatur as part of the East Beltway project.

Decatur is home to production facilities for two Fortune 500 companies, Archer Daniels Midland and Caterpillar, in addition to another major agricultural products producer, Tate and Lyle. Decatur also hosts three Class I railroads: Norfolk Southern, CSX, and Canadian National.

The Beltway project will provide better access to the industrial base of the region, Richland Community College, and the ADM intermodal ramp, a key component of the Midwest Inland Port. This will result in more reliable supply chains for manufacturers and enhanced freight mobility throughout the region, particularly for farm-to-market suppliers from the rural areas to the east. Decatur can and will play a critical role in relieving pressure in the Chicago-area and provide more reliable freight distribution with easy access to large metropolitan areas including Chicago, Indianapolis, St. Louis, Kansas City, Louisville, Columbus, and others.

The Reas Bridges are structurally deficient and as a result have recently been weight restricted, forcing grain trucks and other heavy vehicles traveling from the east to re-route through downtown Decatur. Due to the significant presence of railroads, this results in delays at grade crossings and increased interactions with vehicular traffic posing a safety risk.

Decatur is a community that is built upon manufacturing and industry, and this development will ensure that the region will be set up for years of economic success and safety for its residents. For these reasons, I am proud to support this application. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Rodney Davis  
Member of Congress