

Illinois House of Representatives

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Michael W. Halpin
State Representative • 72nd District

May 14, 2020

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

RE: City of East Moline "Greater Downtown Revitalization Project"
BUILD Grant Application

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing in support of the Better Utilizing Infrastructure to Leverage Development (BUILD) discretionary grant application for the City of East Moline Greater Downtown Revitalization Project.

The proposed project addresses numerous issues within a blighted downtown district, and the two manufacturer brownfield redevelopment sites (The Quarter and The Bend). The City of East Moline has drastically suffered since the early 80's due to the major decline in manufacturing. Much of this was a result of manufacturers going overseas and factories closing across the rust belt region in the United States. Recently, the proposed Bend and Rust Belt developments have begun to bring back life to this area. This project will help build on this momentum and revive the greater downtown area as a vibrant business and entertainment district.

This East Moline project will also create a regional, multi-modal oriented destination for business, entertainment, and living that will drive economic and community activity. "Complete streets" implemented through the greater downtown area will provide safe, accessible connections for vehicles, pedestrians, buses, trains, boats, and bicyclists to the established commercial cores, nearby residential neighborhoods, Mississippi River Trail, and the Mississippi River. It will also dramatically enhance the area and create a uniform sense of identity to East Moline's "Greater Downtown" area with the lighting, landscaping, gateway signs, wayfinding signs, parks and green stormwater infrastructure. I applaud the City's collaborative efforts aimed at increasing accessibility of improving motorist, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian safety, and connecting regions in the community to help development, business, and job growth.

I fully support the City of East Moline in their efforts to revitalize the Greater Downtown area, and I respectfully request that you give the City of East Moline's BUILD Grant application fair and full consideration. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael W. Halpin", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael W. Halpin
State Representative
72nd District