



1523 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
East Moline, IL 61244

May 8, 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:

On behalf of the City East Moline, the board of Revitalize and Develop East Moline (REDEEM) is 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 brownfield redevelopment sites (The Quarter and The Bend). The City of East Moline has drastically suffered since the mid-80's due to the major decline in manufacturing. Factory closings decimated what was known as the agricultural implement capital of the world. Recently developments, The Bend and Rust Belt, have brought some life back into this area. This grant project will provide the impetus to connect the developments on the Mississippi riverfront with the greater downtown area to create a vibrant business and entertainment district.

This East Moline project will 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 lighting, landscaping, gateway signs, wayfinding signs, parks, and green stormwater infrastructure. As an economic development Not for Profit, we 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 create development, business, and job growth.

We fully endorse this BUILD Grant application and respectfully request that you give the City of East Moline’s application fair and full consideration. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Timothy Knanishu', written in a cursive style.

Timothy Knanishu  
Executive Vice-President  
Revitalize and Develop East Moline