

# United States Senate

May 14, 2020

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

Secretary Chao:

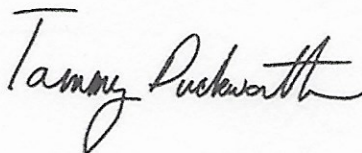
I write to express my support for the City of East Moline's application to the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) discretionary grant program offered by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). This grant funding will enable the City to advance their *Greater Downtown Revitalization Project* by enhancing safety standards, improving local connectivity and fostering an environment for economic development.

The City of East Moline, located on the Upper Mississippi River on Illinois' western border, is home to approximately 20,000 residents and was once home to a vast manufacturing industry base. As recent decades have seen a decrease in factory work, the City has experienced a decline in economic growth. Through these grant funds, the City is striving to continue the momentum sparked by similar redevelopment projects in the greater downtown district. BUILD funding will support projects that provide safe and accessible multimodal connections for between the established commercial cores and nearby residential neighborhoods. The proposed project will also significantly 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 environmentally friendly storm water infrastructure.

As a U.S. Senator and a ranking member of the Transportation and Safety subcommittee, I have made modernizing Illinois' transportation and infrastructure systems one of my top priorities. The *City of East Moline Greater Downtown Revitalization Project* supports the core goals of the BUILD program by fostering economic development through a regional, multi-modal oriented destination for business, entertainment and living. This project's collaborative efforts can encourage development and job growth throughout Illinois and the region.

Please accept this letter of support City of East Moline's application to the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) discretionary 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) 528-6124.

Sincerely,



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator