Dear Chair DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

I am requesting funding for the Hamilton Road East-West Connection Project in surface transportation reauthorization legislation along with Congressman Darin LaHood (IL-18).

The project sponsor for this project is the City of Bloomington and the project is a multi-modal connection of Hamilton Road from Bunn Street to Commerce Parkway, Bloomington, IL 61701. The funding is designated for the final connection of a 7.2-mile east-west transportation improvement project, providing safer, easier roadway travel.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is anticipated to have the following benefits. It will boost economic development opportunities in the project area, resulting in new private investment in multiple vacant in-fill development sites. It will also increase customer traffic and sales at existing businesses along the Hamilton Road Corridor. The project incorporates pedestrian and bicycle routing for transportation and recreation via the Constitution Trail component. Connect Transit, the local transit agency, will also have the ability to improve services to the local VA clinic. Subsurface the City also plans to install new water main and water main looping along sections of the project. Lastly, it is estimated it will contribute to the reduction of air pollution and carbon emissions as traffic volumes decrease by approximately 7 to 15 percent in the target area. The project is the number one 2021 priority for McLean County as expressed by the Bloomington-Normal Economic Development Council’s One Voice coalition.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Rodney Davis
Member of Congress