



Kim Reynolds, Governor
Adam Gregg, Lt. Governor
Scott Marler, Iowa DOT Director

August 10, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary, United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support letter for FY 2023-2024 MPDG Opportunity: Iowa's Farm-to-Market Network of Projects

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of Guthrie County's application, and on behalf of the partnering counties of Chickasaw, Fayette, Mitchell, Wapello, and Webster, for funding through the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) Opportunity. The MPDG funding would facilitate completion of long-planned multimodal improvements on a network of roadways, consisting of six rural Farm-to-Market county roadway projects. This investment across the six rural Iowa counties will enhance the safety, quality of life, and economic viability of these communities, the region, and the state.

Iowa continues to be a leader in crop and livestock production. This agriculture industry is the largest contributor to Iowa's economy and is a major contributor to the national economy. The existing infrastructure along the project corridors is in poor condition, which results in many problems for roadway users, freight haulers, and businesses, such as safety, damage to vehicles and cargo, drainage issues, and accessibility issues for pedestrians due to badly deteriorating sidewalks and lack of accessible walkways. This project will prioritize the safety of human life and will improve the resiliency of the infrastructure, while connecting small communities and building a cohesive network of multimodal alternatives that support diverse community needs.

The Iowa Department of Transportation is responsible to construct and maintain Iowa's interstates and other state highways. While these facilities provide for the safe and efficient movement of goods, including food and agricultural products, most residences, agricultural facilities, and other businesses are not located along state highways. Therefore, it is essential to improve the rural roadways that serve as conduits for people and resources, providing critical first mile/last mile connections and connecting these routes and communities to the state's highway system. The completion of safety and multimodal improvements along the project corridors will also contribute to growth in our region and will strengthen Iowa's critical, cohesive transportation system.

I support Guthrie County's application for the funding of Iowa's Farm-to-Market Network of Projects and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Sincerely,

Scott C. Marler, Director