INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD of ELECTRICAL WORKERS
Local Union 146

3390 N. WOODFORD
DECATUR, IL62526-4795
(217) 877-4604
FAX (217) 877-5204

JOSHUA D. SAPP
BUSINESS MANAGER &
FINANCIALSECRETARY

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
West Building – 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to express our support for the Joint Venture of the City of Decatur and Macon County Illinois' 2022 RAISE grant application for construction of a grade separation and interchange at Brush College Road and Faries Parkway in Decatur.

Brush College Road is a critical conduit for freight, light vehicles and public transportation in Decatur and the Central Illinois region. Everyday thousands of people travel to work and school on Brush College Road and encounter significant and frequent bottlenecks at the Norfolk Southern grade crossing at Faries Parkway. In fact, the crossing averages 17.2 hours of blockages per week, which is expected to increase to 24 hours of blockages per week by 2035.

This crossing is one of the most dangerous in the region with 12 accidents in 10 years, 5 with injuries. The frequent rail traffic also negatively impacts freight mobility and access to jobs. The Decatur Public Transportation System fixed route buses have experienced delays totaling 33½ hours over a two month period in Decatur, with this crossing being one of the most blocked in the area. This is significant since the crossing lies between much of the population center of Decatur and Richland Community College.

Brush College Road connects with Interstate 72 to the north serving as the connection between the Midwest Inland Port and the Interstate, making this investment crucial to the continued development of the Port (intermodal facility) and viability and growth of existing businesses in the area. In addition, major regional employers are located on or near Brush College Road and rely heavily on the corridor for the transportation of goods and services as well as employees.

This project will also provide much needed multiuse connectivity between residential areas and the industrial center of Central Illinois and the Community College. By offering active transportation options to nearby residents located in areas of persistent poverty, the project will help increase access to jobs and advanced educational opportunities.

This project was fully funded based on the engineer's estimate and went to bid this past January (2022). Unfortunately, inflated costs of materials and labor resulted in the project being bid $16 million over the engineer's estimate bringing the total project cost to $76 million. This transformation project is literally ready to go once the additional funds can be obtained.

The City of Decatur and Macon County have been strongly committed to upgrading the region's infrastructure to increase economic opportunity and create jobs in Central Illinois. To that end, significant local public investments have been made to upgrade the sewer system, revitalize downtown Decatur and dredge Lake Decatur. In addition, the City has recently enacted a motor fuel tax to invest in local roads and streets. These investments totaling over $100 million are support the area's industry and improving the quality of life for residents. Because of these investments and the bids received on this project, the City is seeking this grant to cover the bid gap of $16 million.

Given the many public benefits associated with this project, I strongly urge you to support this grant. Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to working with you on this and other opportunities to address transportation issues across Illinois.

Sincerely,

Josh Sapp

Josh Sapp
Business Manager/Financial Secretary

International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council #58

940 California Ave. Collinsville, IL 62234
Phone: (618) 345-6646 Fax: (618) 345-5962
www.dc58iupat.net

Carl Farrell
Business Manager
Secretary Treasurer

Representing the members of:

Local 32
Local 85
Local 90
Local 115
Local 120
Local 124
Local 288
Local 363
Local 471
Local 513
Local 774
Local 910
Local 1156
Local 1168
Local 1185
Local 1199
Local 1292
Local 1705
Local 2007
Local 2341

March 28, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
West Building – 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to express our support for the Joint Venture of the City of Decatur and Macon County Illinois' 2022 RAISE grant application for construction of a grade separation and interchange at Brush College Road and Faries Parkway in Decatur.

Brush College Road is a critical conduit for freight, light vehicles and public transportation in Decatur and the Central Illinois region. Everyday thousands of people travel to work and school on Brush College Road and encounter significant and frequent bottlenecks at the Norfolk Southern grade crossing at Faries Parkway. In fact, the crossing averages 17.2 hours of blockages per week, which is expected to increase to 24 hours of blockages per week by 2035.

This crossing is one of the most dangerous in the region with 12 accidents in 10 years, 5 with injuries. The frequent rail traffic also negatively impacts freight mobility and access to jobs. The Decatur Public Transportation System fixed route buses have experienced delays totaling 33½ hours over a two month period in Decatur, with this crossing being one of the most blocked in the area. This is significant since the crossing lies between much of the population center of Decatur and Richland Community College.

Brush College Road connects with Interstate 72 to the north serving as the connection between the Midwest Inland Port and the Interstate, making this investment crucial to the continued development of the Port (intermodal facility) and viability and growth of existing businesses in the area. In addition, major regional employers are located on or near Brush College Road and rely heavily on the corridor for the transportation of goods and services as well as employees.

This project will also provide much needed multiuse connectivity between residential areas and the industrial center of Central Illinois and the Community College. By offering active transportation options to nearby residents located in areas of persistent poverty, the project will help increase access to jobs and advanced educational opportunities.

This project was fully funded based on the engineer's estimate and went to bid this past January (2022). Unfortunately, inflated costs of materials and labor

resulted in the project being bid $16 million over the engineer's estimate bringing the total project cost to $76 million. This transformation project is literally ready to go once the additional funds can be obtained.

The City of Decatur and Macon County have been strongly committed to upgrading the region's infrastructure to increase economic opportunity and create jobs in Central Illinois. To that end, significant local public investments have been made to upgrade the sewer system, revitalize downtown Decatur and dredge Lake Decatur. In addition, the City has recently enacted a motor fuel tax to invest in local roads and streets. These investments totaling over $100 million are support the area's industry and improving the quality of life for residents. Because of these investments and the bids received on this project, the City is seeking this grant to cover the bid gap of $16 million.

Given the many public benefits associated with this project, I strongly urge you to support this grant. Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to working with you on this and other opportunities to address transportation issues across Illinois.

Sincerely,

William M. Francisco

William M. Francisco, Assistant Business Manager
International Union of Painters and Allied Trades
District Council 58

Iron Workers Local Union 380

1602 E. Butzow Dr., Urbana, IL 61802 ■ ironworkers380@gmail.com
Phone 217-367-6014 ■ Fax 217-367-6614 ■ ironworkers380.org
AFFILIATED WITH AFL-CIO

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
West Building – 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to express our support for the Joint Venture of the City of Decatur and Macon County Illinois' 2022 RAISE grant application for construction of a grade separation and interchange at Brush College Road and Faries Parkway in Decatur.

Brush College Road is a critical conduit for freight, light vehicles and public transportation in Decatur and the Central Illinois region. Everyday thousands of people travel to work and school on Brush College Road and encounter significant and frequent bottlenecks at the Norfolk Southern grade crossing at Faries Parkway. In fact, the crossing averages 17.2 hours of blockages per week, which is expected to increase to 24 hours of blockages per week by 2035.

This crossing is one of the most dangerous in the region with 12 accidents in 10 years, 5 with injuries. The frequent rail traffic also negatively impacts freight mobility and access to jobs. The Decatur Public Transportation System fixed route buses have experienced delays totaling 33½ hours over a two-month period in Decatur, with this crossing being one of the most blocked in the area. This is significant since the crossing lies between much of the population center of Decatur and Richland Community College.

Brush College Road connects with Interstate 72 to the north serving as the connection between the Midwest Inland Port and the Interstate, making this investment crucial to the continued development of the Port (intermodal facility) and viability and growth of existing businesses in the area. In addition, major regional employers are located on or near Brush College Road and rely heavily on the corridor for the transportation of goods and services as well as employees.

This project will also provide much needed multiuse connectivity between residential areas and the industrial center of Central Illinois and the Community College. By offering active transportation options to nearby residents located in areas of persistent poverty, the project will help increase access to jobs and advanced educational opportunities.

This project was fully funded based on the engineer's estimate and went to bid this past January (2022). Unfortunately, inflated costs of materials and labor resulted in the project being bid $16 million over the

engineer's estimate bringing the total project cost to $76 million. This transformation project is literally ready to go once the additional funds can be obtained.

The City of Decatur and Macon County have been strongly committed to upgrading the region's infrastructure to increase economic opportunity and create jobs in Central Illinois. To that end, significant local public investments have been made to upgrade the sewer system, revitalize downtown Decatur and dredge Lake Decatur. In addition, the City has recently enacted a motor fuel tax to invest in local roads and streets. These investments totaling over $100 million are support the area's industry and improving the quality of life for residents. Because of these investments and the bids received on this project, the City is seeking this grant to cover the bid gap of $16 million.

Given the many public benefits associated with this project, I strongly urge you to support this grant. Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to working with you on this and other opportunities to address transportation issues across Illinois.

Sincerely,

Charles Black
Business Manager

UNITED UNION OF ROOFERS, WATERPROOFERS AND ALLIED WORKERS LOCAL UNION NO.97

AFFILIATED WITH THE AFL-CIO AND BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TRADES DEPARTMENT
3301 N BOARDWALK DR., P.O. BOX 6569, CHAMPAIGN, IL 61826-6569
PHONE: (217) 359-3922 E-MAIL: DARRELL@ROOFERSLOCAL97.COM

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
West Building – 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to express our support for the Joint Venture of the City of Decatur and Macon County Illinois' 2022 RAISE grant application for construction of a grade separation and interchange at Brush College Road and Faries Parkway in Decatur.

Brush College Road is a critical conduit for freight, light vehicles and public transportation in Decatur and the Central Illinois region. Everyday thousands of people travel to work and school on Brush College Road and encounter significant and frequent bottlenecks at the Norfolk Southern grade crossing at Faries Parkway. In fact, the crossing averages 17.2 hours of blockages per week, which is expected to increase to 24 hours of blockages per week by 2035.

This crossing is one of the most dangerous in the region with 12 accidents in 10 years, 5 with injuries. The frequent rail traffic also negatively impacts freight mobility and access to jobs. The Decatur Public Transportation System fixed route buses have experienced delays totaling 33½ hours over a two month period in Decatur, with this crossing being one of the most blocked in the area. This is significant since the crossing lies between much of the population center of Decatur and Richland Community College.

Brush College Road connects with Interstate 72 to the north serving as the connection between the Midwest Inland Port and the Interstate, making this investment crucial to the continued development of the Port (intermodal facility) and viability and growth of existing businesses in the area. In addition, major regional employers are located on or near Brush College Road and rely heavily on the corridor for the transportation of goods and services as well as employees.

This project will also provide much needed multiuse connectivity between residential areas and the industrial center of Central Illinois and the Community College. By offering active transportation options to nearby residents located in areas of persistent poverty, the project will help increase access to jobs and advanced educational opportunities.

This project was fully funded based on the engineer's estimate and went to bid this past January (2022). Unfortunately, inflated costs of materials and labor resulted in the project being bid $16 million over the engineer's estimate bringing the total project cost to $76 million. This transformation project is literally ready to go once the additional funds can be obtained.

UNITED UNION OF ROOFERS, WATERPROOFERS AND ALLIED WORKERS LOCAL UNION NO.97

AFFILIATED WITH THE AFL-CIO AND BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TRADES DEPARTMENT
3301 N BOARDWALK DR., P.O. BOX 6569, CHAMPAIGN, IL 61826-6569
PHONE: (217) 359-3922 E-MAIL: DARRELL@ROOFERSLOCAL97.COM

The City of Decatur and Macon County have been strongly committed to upgrading the region's infrastructure to increase economic opportunity and create jobs in Central Illinois. To that end, significant local public investments have been made to upgrade the sewer system, revitalize downtown Decatur and dredge Lake Decatur. In addition, the City has recently enacted a motor fuel tax to invest in local roads and streets. These investments totaling over $100 million are support the area's industry and improving the quality of life for residents. Because of these investments and the bids received on this project, the City is seeking this grant to cover the bid gap of $16 million.

Given the many public benefits associated with this project, I strongly urge you to support this grant. Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to working with you on this and other opportunities to address transportation issues across Illinois.

Sincerely,
Darrell Harrison

Business Manager

GENERAL TEAMSTERS / PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL EMPLOYEES
LOCAL UNION NO. 916
AFFILIATED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS
JAMES P. HOFFA, GENERAL PRESIDENT

EXECUTIVE BOARD

JP FYANS, *PRESIDENT*

JERRIME HISER, *VICE PRESIDENT*

DAVID RUSH, *SECRETARY TREASURER*

TAMMY FRIEDEWALD, *RECORDING SECRETARY*

JIM FRANKLIN, *TRUSTEE*

LARRY LARSON, *TRUSTEE*

DAVE SHAFER, *TRUSTEE*

STAFF

JP FYANS, *DIRECTING BUSINESS AGENT*

DAVID RUSH, *BUSINESS AGENT*

LARRY LARSON, *BUSINESS AGENT*

KYLE BOLLINGER, *BUSINESS AGENT*

JERRIME HISER, *BUSINESS AGENT*

LISA BADGER, *BUSINESS AGENT*

TREVOR J. CLATFELTER, *DIRECTOR GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS*

SASHA CADIGAN, *OFFICE MANAGER*

TERESA HANNER, *ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/ TITAN OPERATOR*

April 13, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
West Building – 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to express our support for the Joint Venture of the City of Decatur and Macon County Illinois' 2022 RAISE grant application for construction of a grade separation and interchange at Brush College Road and Faries Parkway in Decatur.

Brush College Road is a critical conduit for freight, light vehicles and public transportation in Decatur and the Central Illinois region. Everyday thousands of people travel to work and school on Brush College Road and encounter significant and frequent bottlenecks at the Norfolk Southern grade crossing at Faries Parkway. In fact, the crossing averages 17.2 hours of blockages per week, which is expected to increase to 24 hours of blockages per week by 2035.

This crossing is one of the most dangerous in the region with 12 accidents in 10 years, 5 with injuries. The frequent rail traffic also negatively impacts freight mobility and access to jobs. The Decatur Public Transportation System fixed route buses have experienced delays totaling 33½ hours over a two month period in Decatur, with this crossing being one of the most blocked in the area. This is significant since the crossing lies between much of the population center of Decatur and Richland Community College.

Brush College Road connects with Interstate 72 to the north serving as the connection between the Midwest Inland Port and the Interstate, making this investment crucial to the continued development of the Port (intermodal facility) and viability and growth of existing businesses in the area. In addition, major regional employers are located on or near Brush College Road and rely heavily on the corridor for the transportation of goods and services as well as employees.

3361 TEAMSTER WAY • SPRINGFIELD, IL 62707
(217) 522-7932 • FAX (217) 522-9492
www.teamsters916.org

GENERAL TEAMSTERS / PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL EMPLOYEES
LOCAL UNION NO. 916
AFFILIATED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS
JAMES P. HOFFA, GENERAL PRESIDENT

EXECUTIVE BOARD

JP FYANS, *President*

JERRIME HISER, *Vice President*

DAVID RUSH, *Secretary Treasurer*

TAMMY FRIEDEWALD, *Recording Secretary*

JIM FRANKLIN, *Trustee*

LARRY LARSON, *Trustee*

DAVE SHAFER, *Trustee*

STAFF

JP FYANS, *Directing Business Agent*

DAVID RUSH, *Business Agent*

LARRY LARSON, *Business Agent*

KYLE BOLLINGER, *Business Agent*

JERRIME HISER, *Business Agent*

LISA BADGER, *Business Agent*

TREVOR J. CLATFELTER, *Director Governmental Affairs*

SASHA CADIGAN, *Office Manager*

TERESA HANNER, *Administrative Assistant/ Titan Operator*

This project will also provide much needed multiuse connectivity between residential areas and the industrial center of Central Illinois and the Community College. By offering active transportation options to nearby residents located in areas of persistent poverty, the project will help increase access to jobs and advanced educational opportunities.

This project was fully funded based on the engineer's estimate and went to bid this past January (2022). Unfortunately, inflated costs of materials and labor resulted in the project being bid $16 million over the engineer's estimate bringing the total project cost to $76 million. This transformation project is literally ready to go once the additional funds can be obtained.

The City of Decatur and Macon County have been strongly committed to upgrading the region's infrastructure to increase economic opportunity and create jobs in Central Illinois. To that end, significant local public investments have been made to upgrade the sewer system, revitalize downtown Decatur and dredge Lake Decatur. In addition, the City has recently enacted a motor fuel tax to invest in local roads and streets. These investments totaling over $100 million are support the area's industry and improving the quality of life for residents. Because of these investments and the bids received on this project, the City is seeking this grant to cover the bid gap of $16 million.

Given the many public benefits associated with this project, I strongly urge you to support this grant. Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to working with you on this and other opportunities to address transportation issues across Illinois.

Sincerely,

JP Fyans, III
President

3361 TEAMSTER WAY • SPRINGFIELD, IL 62707
(217) 522-7932 • FAX (217) 522-9492
www.teamsters916.org

United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices
of the Plumbing and Piping Industry
of the United States and Canada
Local #137

March 28, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
West Building – 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to express our support for the Joint Venture of the City of Decatur and Macon County Illinois' 2022 RAISE grant application for construction of a grade separation and interchange at Brush College Road and Faries Parkway in Decatur.

Brush College Road is a critical conduit for freight, light vehicles and public transportation in Decatur and the Central Illinois region. Everyday thousands of people travel to work and school on Brush College Road and encounter significant and frequent bottlenecks at the Norfolk Southern grade crossing at Faries Parkway. In fact, the crossing averages 17.2 hours of blockages per week, which is expected to increase to 24 hours of blockages per week by 2035.

This crossing is one of the most dangerous in the region with 12 accidents in 10 years, 5 with injuries. The frequent rail traffic also negatively impacts freight mobility and access to jobs. The Decatur Public Transportation System fixed route buses have experienced delays totaling 33½ hours over a two-month period in Decatur, with this crossing being one of the most blocked in the area. This is significant since the crossing lies between much of the population center of Decatur and Richland Community College.

Brush College Road connects with Interstate 72 to the north serving as the connection between the Midwest Inland Port and the Interstate, making this investment crucial to the continued development of the Port (intermodal facility) and viability and growth of existing businesses in the area. In addition, major regional employers are located on or near Brush College Road and rely heavily on the corridor for the transportation of goods and services as well as employees.

This project will also provide much needed multiuse connectivity between residential areas and the industrial center of Central Illinois and the Community College. By offering active transportation options to nearby residents located in areas of persistent poverty, the project will help increase access to jobs and advanced educational opportunities.

This project was fully funded based on the engineer's estimate and went to bid this past January (2022). Unfortunately, inflated costs of materials and labor resulted in the project being bid $16 million over the engineer's estimate bringing the total project cost to $76 million. This transformation project is literally ready to go once the additional funds can be obtained.

2880 East Cook Street, Springfield, IL 62703
UA137.ORG PH 217-544-2724

United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Piping Industry of the United States and Canada Local #137

The City of Decatur and Macon County have been strongly committed to upgrading the region's infrastructure to increase economic opportunity and create jobs in Central Illinois. To that end, significant local public investments have been made to upgrade the sewer system, revitalize downtown Decatur and dredge Lake Decatur. In addition, the City has recently enacted a motor fuel tax to invest in local roads and streets. These investments totaling over $100 million are support the area's industry and improving the quality of life for residents. Because of these investments and the bids received on this project, the City is seeking this grant to cover the bid gap of $16 million.

Given the many public benefits associated with this project, I strongly urge you to support this grant. Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to working with you on this and other opportunities to address transportation issues across Illinois.

Sincerely,

2880 East Cook Street, Springfield, IL 62703
UA137.ORG PH 217-544-2724

International Union of Operating Engineers
LOCAL UNION NO. 965
3520 EAST COOK STREET • SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62703
AFFILIATED WITH THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS
OFFICE TELEPHONE: (217) 528-9659 FAX: (217) 528-9060

March 25, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
West Building - 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to express our support for the Joint Venture of the City of Decatur and Macon County Illinois' 2022 RAISE grant application for construction of a grade separation and interchange at Brush College Road and Faries Parkway in Decatur.

Brush College Road is a critical conduit for freight, light vehicles and public transportation in Decatur and the Central Illinois region. Everyday thousands of people travel to work and school on Brush College Road and encounter significant and frequent bottlenecks at the Norfolk Southern grade crossing at Faries Parkway. In fact, the crossing averages 17.2 hours of blockages per week, which is expected to increase to 24 hours of blockages per week by 2035.

This crossing is one of the most dangerous in the region with 12 accidents in 10 years, 5 with injuries. The frequent rail traffic also negatively impacts freight mobility and access to jobs. The Decatur Public Transportation System fixed route buses have experienced delays totaling 33½ hours over a two-month period in Decatur, with this crossing being one of the most blocked in the area. This is significant since the crossing lies between much of the population center of Decatur and Richland Community College.

Brush College Road connects with Interstate 72 to the north serving as the connection between the Midwest Inland Port and the Interstate, making this investment crucial to the continued development of the Port (intermodal facility) and viability and growth of existing businesses in the area. In addition, major regional employers are located on or near Brush College Road and rely heavily on the corridor for the transportation of goods and services as well as employees.

This project will also provide much needed multiuse connectivity between residential areas and the industrial center of Central Illinois and the Community College. By offering active transportation options to nearby residents located in areas of persistent poverty, the project will help increase access to jobs and advanced educational opportunities.

This project was fully funded based on the engineer's estimate and went to bid this past January (2022). Unfortunately, inflated costs of materials and labor resulted in the project being bid $16 million over the engineer's estimate bringing the total project cost to $76 million. This transformation project is literally ready to go once the additional funds can be obtained.

The City of Decatur and Macon County have been strongly committed to upgrading the region's infrastructure to increase economic opportunity and create jobs in Central Illinois. To that end, significant local public investments have been made to upgrade the sewer system, revitalize downtown Decatur and dredge Lake Decatur. In addition, the City has recently enacted a motor fuel tax to invest in local roads and streets. These investments totaling over $100 million are support the area's industry and improving the quality of life for residents. Because of these investments and the bids received on this project, the City is seeking this grant to cover the bid gap of $16 million.

Given the many public benefits associated with this project, I strongly urge you to support this grant. Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to working with you on this and other opportunities to address transportation issues across Illinois.

Sincerely,

Bret E. Scaggs
Business Manager

DECATUR BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL AFL-CIO
3390 North Woodford
Decatur, Illinois 62526
217/877-4604
Fax: 217/877-5204
Meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 10:00 a.m.

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
West Building – 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to express our support for the Joint Venture of the City of Decatur and Macon County Illinois' 2022 RAISE grant application for construction of a grade separation and interchange at Brush College Road and Faries Parkway in Decatur.

Brush College Road is a critical conduit for freight, light vehicles and public transportation in Decatur and the Central Illinois region. Everyday thousands of people travel to work and school on Brush College Road and encounter significant and frequent bottlenecks at the Norfolk Southern grade crossing at Faries Parkway. In fact, the crossing averages 17.2 hours of blockages per week, which is expected to increase to 24 hours of blockages per week by 2035.

This crossing is one of the most dangerous in the region with 12 accidents in 10 years, 5 with injuries. The frequent rail traffic also negatively impacts freight mobility and access to jobs. The Decatur Public Transportation System fixed route buses have experienced delays totaling 33½ hours over a two month period in Decatur, with this crossing being one of the most blocked in the area. This is significant since the crossing lies between much of the population center of Decatur and Richland Community College.

Brush College Road connects with Interstate 72 to the north serving as the connection between the Midwest Inland Port and the Interstate, making this investment crucial to the continued development of the Port (intermodal facility) and viability and growth of existing businesses in the area. In addition, major regional employers are located on or near Brush College Road and rely heavily on the corridor for the transportation of goods and services as well as employees.

This project will also provide much needed multiuse connectivity between residential areas and the industrial center of Central Illinois and the Community College. By offering active transportation options to nearby residents located in areas of persistent poverty, the project will help increase access to jobs and advanced educational opportunities.

This project was fully funded based on the engineer's estimate and went to bid this past January (2022). Unfortunately, inflated costs of materials and labor resulted in the project being bid $16 million over the engineer's estimate bringing the total project cost to $76 million. This transformation project is literally ready to go once the additional funds can be obtained.

The City of Decatur and Macon County have been strongly committed to upgrading the region's infrastructure to increase economic opportunity and create jobs in Central Illinois. To that end, significant local public investments have been made to upgrade the sewer system, revitalize downtown Decatur and dredge Lake Decatur. In addition, the City has recently enacted a motor fuel tax to invest in local roads and streets. These investments totaling over $100 million are support the area's industry and improving the quality of life for residents. Because of these investments and the bids received on this project, the City is seeking this grant to cover the bid gap of $16 million.

Given the many public benefits associated with this project, I strongly urge you to support this grant. Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to working with you on this and other opportunities to address transportation issues across Illinois.

Sincerely,

Josh Sapp
President