



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
TOURISM

April 11, 2022

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

Re: Support Developing Connection: Isett Avenue and Cypress Street Reconstruction Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Greater Muscatine Chamber of Commerce & Industry heartily supports the City of Muscatine's application for the FY 2022 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant to support the Developing Connection: Isett Avenue and Cypress Street Reconstruction project.

Over the years, Muscatine has consistently ranked in the top 5 communities in Iowa for economic strength, and businesses using Isett Avenue as a designated truck route play a key role in Muscatine's economic strength. Isett Avenue is a vital connector of businesses in Muscatine that connects Highway 61 to the businesses along Isett and Cypress all the way to the downtown. Businesses of all sizes utilize this important corridor daily to transport their goods out of our community from some of the largest employers in Muscatine that do business all over the country and world such as HNI Corporation and Kraft Heinz to medium sized businesses such as Daufeldt Transportation and many more small businesses. These businesses play a key role in Muscatine's economic vitality and by supporting this project, it also supports further economic growth in the greater area of this corridor in Muscatine.

Considering the vast amount of commercial and industrial traffic utilizing this roadway, the decaying infrastructure along this thoroughfare creates hazardous conditions for both vehicular traffic and pedestrians. Currently, pedestrians are forced to walk alongside Isett Avenue without a sidewalk as well as bicyclists travelling amid the semi traffic in the roadway, many are Heinz shift workers using this route during all hours of the day. This reconstruction would allow for pedestrians and bicyclists without access to vehicles to have an equitable and safe travel corridor via a multi-use trail. The redesign and reconstruction of Isett Avenue will greatly improve safety conditions for car, pedestrian and industrial traffic.

For some time, this vital corridor has been in need of redesign and investment. GMCCI enthusiastically supports this much needed redesign and reconstruction of Isett Avenue and Cypress Street for pedestrians, car traffic, industrial traffic and the benefit of the Muscatine community.

Sincerely,

Hannah Howard, Director of Business Services & Advocacy

W W W . M U S C A T I N E . C O M

GREATER MUSCATINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

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