

# Letters of Support

Charles E. Grassley, U.S. Senate

Joni Ernst, U.S. Senate

Mariannette Miller-Meeks, U.S. House of Representatives

Mark Lofgren, State Senate

Scott Sauer, Muscatine County Board of Supervisors

Christopher Jasper, Muscatine County Emergency Management

Curtis Weiss, Muscatine County Conservation Board

Gerald Ewers, City of Muscatine Fire Chief

Jodi Royal-Goodwin, City of Muscatine Community Development Director

Gage Huston, Muscatine Power and Water General Manager

Gregory Theis, MidAmerican Energy Program Manager

135 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501  
(202) 224-3744  
www.grassley.senate.gov

721 FEDERAL BUILDING  
210 WALNUT STREET  
DES MOINES, IA 50309-2106  
(515) 288-1145

111 7TH AVENUE, SE, BOX 13  
SUITE 6800  
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52401-2101  
(319) 363-6832

## United States Senate

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE EMERITUS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501

120 FEDERAL BUILDING  
320 6TH STREET  
SIOUX CITY, IA 51101-1244  
(712) 233-1860

210 WATERLOO BUILDING  
531 COMMERCIAL STREET  
WATERLOO, IA 50701-5497  
(319) 232-6657

201 WEST 2ND STREET  
SUITE 720  
DAVENPORT, IA 52801-1817  
(563) 322-4331

2146 27TH AVENUE  
SUITE 550  
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA 51501-6985  
(712) 322-7103

August 11, 2022

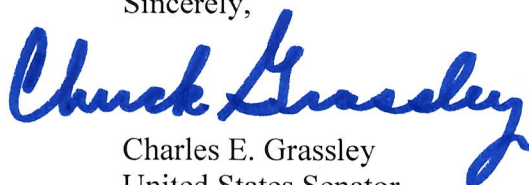
Carol Webb  
City Administrator  
City of Muscatine  
215 Sycamore Street  
Muscatine, Iowa 52761

Dear Ms. Webb:

I have contacted Secretary Buttigieg of the U.S. Department of Transportation, regarding the Railroad Crossing Elimination Program Grant application being submitted by the City of Muscatine for a grade separation project at the highway-rail grade crossing of the Canadian Pacific Railway at Dick Drake Way. I asked that this application be given all due consideration. Should I receive a response from the U.S. Department of Transportation, I will relay any helpful information to you.

Thank you for allowing me to be of assistance to you. If you have any further questions regarding this, or any other federal matter, please do not hesitate to contact me again.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senator

#### Committee Assignments:

AGRICULTURE  
BUDGET  
FINANCE

RANKING MEMBER,  
JUDICIARY

CO-CHAIRMAN,  
CAUCUS ON  
INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL

## United States Senate

Dear Ms. Molacek,

Thank you for contacting me to request assistance with your grant application for the City of Muscatine. I appreciate the detail you provided to demonstrate how these grant funds would be utilized.

In order to be most helpful, I have contacted the Department of Transportation directly and requested full consideration of your grant application. As your United States Senator, it is an honor to ensure Iowans are considered for federal grants to better our communities and the services provided.

Thank you again for reaching out with your request. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Emily Covey in my Des Moines office at 733 Federal Building, 210 Walnut Street, Des Moines, IA or by phone at (515) 284-4574. Emily may also be reached by email at [Emily\\_Covey@ernst.senate.gov](mailto:Emily_Covey@ernst.senate.gov).

Sincerely,



Joni K. Ernst  
United States Senator





**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515

August 15, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to you regarding the City of Muscatine's application for funding through the Railroad Crossing Elimination Program planning grant for a grade separation project planned at the highway-rail grade crossing of the Canadian Pacific Railway at Dick Drake Way in Muscatine, Iowa. Please give their application due consideration under all applicable rules and laws.

According to the project sponsors, this project would transform the existing, highway-rail grade crossing into a grade-separated multimodal crossing, improving safety, efficiency of vehicular traffic flow, and community access to the southern part of Muscatine, especially with the anticipated merger of the Canadian Pacific Railway (CP) and Kansas City Southern Railway (KCS).

- **Safety:** The project sponsors anticipate the project will improve safety on multiple fronts. It will enable emergency responders to reach all parts of the city without the potential delay at highway-rail grade crossings. By providing a safer crossing option, this project will also mitigate current, unsafe behaviors of motorists and pedestrians at highway-rail grade crossings.
- **Efficiency:** The City of Muscatine has 15 highway-railroad grade crossings, containing up to four tracks, which currently cause transportation barriers and congestion. Once the CP/KCS merger is approved and joint rail operations begin, the City of Muscatine anticipates train traffic increasing from approximately 6 trains per day to 20 trains per day, potentially increasing vehicular delay and traffic congestion. This project will improve efficiency of vehicular traffic flow and the overall movement of people and goods throughout the city by providing one route for the traveling public resilient to barriers and delay caused by trains occupying highway-rail grade crossings.
- **Accessibility:** The southern part of Muscatine, which includes several residences, businesses, industries, community resources, and emergency services, is an economically disadvantaged area that is physically separated from the rest of the city by active rail lines. With the potential for increased train traffic, more frequent blocked crossings would limit access to resources and necessities for many people. By providing a grade-separated

crossing through this project, the City of Muscatine can enhance access for many who live or work in disadvantaged neighborhoods.

According to the project sponsors, the City of Muscatine continues to make significant investments in community amenities and services and is committed to prioritizing the quality of life in the city by improving vehicular and pedestrian access to these amenities and services.

For these reasons and those further described in their grant application, I would appreciate your full and fair consideration of the City of Muscatine's Railroad Crossing Elimination Program planning grant application. If you have any questions, please contact my Legislative Aide Blake Dickerson at (202) 225-6576 or at [blake@mail.house.gov](mailto:blake@mail.house.gov).

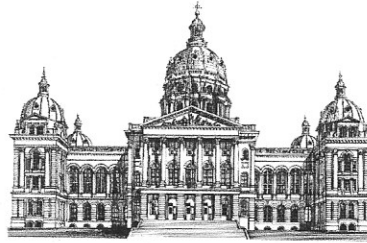
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mariannette J. Miller-Meeks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'M' and 'J'.

Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D.  
Member of Congress

MARK S. LOFGREN  
STATE SENATOR  
*Forty-sixth District*  
Statehouse: (515) 281-3371

HOME ADDRESS  
3025 Provence Lane  
Muscatine, IA 52761  
H: (563) 272-8683  
mark.lofgren@legis.iowa.gov



**The Senate**  
State of Iowa  
*Eighty-Ninth General Assembly*  
STATEHOUSE  
Des Moines, IA 50319

**ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER**

**COMMITTEES**

Appropriations, *Vice Chair*  
Government Oversight  
Human Resources  
Local Government  
Veterans Affairs

Economic Development  
Appropriations Subcommittee, *Chair*

August 23, 2022

Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for the City of Muscatine's Application for a Railroad Crossing Elimination Program Grant

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my strong support for the City of Muscatine's request for a Railroad Crossing Elimination Program planning grant for a grade separation project planned at the highway-rail grade crossing of the Canadian Pacific Railway at Dick Drake Way in Muscatine, Iowa. Please see below the three specific benefits of this project and my reasons for supporting this grant application.

- **Safety:** This project is anticipated to improve safety on multiple fronts. It will enable emergency responders to reach all parts of the city without the potential delay at highway-rail grade crossings. By providing a safer crossing option, this project will also mitigate current, unsafe behaviors of motorists and pedestrians at highway-rail grade crossings.
- **Efficiency:** The current railroad configuration in Muscatine already contains barriers and congestion. Once the CP/KCS joint rail operations begin, the City anticipates train traffic increasing from about 6 trains per day to 20 trains per day, increasing vehicular delay and traffic congestion. This project will improve efficiency of traffic flow and movement of people and goods throughout the city by providing one route for the public resilient to barriers and delay caused by trains occupying highway-rail grade crossings.
- **Accessibility:** Physically separated from the rest of the city by active rail lines, South Muscatine is an economically disadvantaged area comprised of residences, businesses, industries, community resources, and emergency services. With increased train traffic, more frequent blocked crossings would limit access to resources and necessities for many people. By providing a grade-separated crossing through this project, the City of Muscatine can enhance access for many who live or work in South Muscatine.

As a lifelong resident of Muscatine, I've seen firsthand how The City of Muscatine continues to make significant investments in community amenities and services and is committed to prioritizing the quality of life in the city. This is yet one more advance in this area. For these reasons, I would urge your strongest consideration of this application for the grade separation and the critical improvements this project would provide. My support, the support of CP, as well as many other Iowa partners and the public, demonstrates that our community and the State of Iowa understands the need for and importance of this grade separation project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mark S. Lofgren', written over a horizontal line.

Mark S. Lofgren  
State Senator

# MUSCATINE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Santos Saucedo, District One

Doug Holliday, District Two

Scott Sauer, District Three

Nathan Mather, District Four

Jeff Sorensen, District Five

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August 22, 2022

Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for the City of Muscatine's Application for a Railroad Crossing Elimination Program Grant

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors' strong support for the City of Muscatine's request for a Railroad Crossing Elimination Program planning grant for a grade separation project planned at the highway-rail grade crossing of the Canadian Pacific Railway at Dick Drake Way in Muscatine, Iowa. This project would transform the existing, highway-rail grade crossing into a grade-separated multimodal crossing, improving safety, efficiency of vehicular traffic flow, and community access to the southern part of Muscatine, especially with the anticipated merger of the Canadian Pacific Railway (CP) and Kansas City Southern Railway (KCS).

- **Safety:** This project is anticipated to improve safety on multiple fronts. It will enable emergency responders to reach all parts of the city without the potential delay at highway-rail grade crossings. By providing a safer crossing option, this project will also mitigate current, unsafe behaviors of motorists and pedestrians at highway-rail grade crossings.
- **Efficiency:** The City of Muscatine has 15 highway-railroad grade crossings, containing up to four tracks, which currently cause transportation barriers and congestion. Once the CP/KCS merger is approved and joint rail operations begin, the City of Muscatine anticipates train traffic increasing from approximately 6 trains per day to 20 trains per day, potentially increasing vehicular delay and traffic congestion. This project will improve efficiency of vehicular traffic flow and the overall movement of people and goods throughout the city by providing one route for the traveling public resilient to barriers and delay caused by trains occupying highway-rail grade crossings.
- **Accessibility:** The southern part of Muscatine, which includes several residences, businesses, industries, community resources, and emergency services, is an economically disadvantaged area that is physically separated from the rest of the city by active rail lines. With the potential for increased train traffic, more frequent blocked crossings would limit access to resources and

necessities for many people. By providing a grade-separated crossing through this project, the City of Muscatine can enhance access for many who live or work in disadvantaged neighborhoods.

The City of Muscatine continues to make significant investments in community amenities and services and are committed to prioritizing the quality of life in the city by improving vehicular and pedestrian access to these amenities and services, as well as a continued commitment to public safety. For these reasons, we urge your strongest consideration of this application for the grade separation and the critical improvements this project would provide. Our support, the support of CP, as well as many other Iowa partners and the public, demonstrates that the County and the State of Iowa understand the need for and importance of this grade separation project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Sauer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Scott" and last name "Sauer" clearly distinguishable.

Scott Sauer, Chair  
Muscatine County Board of Supervisors





August 12, 2022

Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for the City of Muscatine's Application for a Railroad Crossing Elimination Program Grant

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my strong support for the City of Muscatine's request for a Railroad Crossing Elimination Program planning grant for a grade separation project planned at the highway-rail grade crossing of the Canadian Pacific Railway at Dick Drake Way in Muscatine, Iowa. This project would transform the existing, highway-rail grade crossing into a grade-separated multimodal crossing, improving safety, efficiency of vehicular traffic flow, and community access to the southern part of Muscatine, especially with the anticipated merger of the Canadian Pacific Railway (CP) and Kansas City Southern Railway (KCS).

- **Safety:** This project is anticipated to improve safety on multiple fronts. It will enable emergency responders to reach all parts of the city without the potential delay at highway-rail grade crossings. By providing a safer crossing option, this project will also mitigate current, unsafe behaviors of motorists and pedestrians at highway-rail grade crossings.
- **Efficiency:** The City of Muscatine has 15 highway-railroad grade crossings, containing up to four tracks, which currently cause transportation barriers and congestion. Once the CP/KCS merger is approved and joint rail operations begin, the City of Muscatine anticipates train traffic increasing from approximately 6 trains per day to 20 trains per day, potentially increasing vehicular delay and traffic congestion. This project will improve efficiency of vehicular traffic flow and the overall movement of people and goods throughout the city by providing one route for the traveling public resilient to barriers and delay caused by trains occupying highway-rail grade crossings.
- **Accessibility:** The southern part of Muscatine, which includes several residences, businesses, industries, community resources, and emergency services, is an economically disadvantaged area that is physically separated from the rest of the city by active rail lines. With the potential for increased train traffic, more frequent blocked crossings would limit access to resources and necessities for many people. By providing a grade-separated crossing through this project, the City of Muscatine can enhance access for many who live or work in disadvantaged neighborhoods.

The City of Muscatine continues to make significant investments in community amenities and services and are committed to prioritizing the quality of life in the city by improving vehicular and pedestrian access to these amenities and services, as well as a continued commitment to public safety. For these reasons, I would urge your strongest consideration of this application for the grade separation and the critical improvements this project would provide. My support, the support of CP, as well as many other Iowa partners and the public, demonstrates that our community and the State of Iowa understands the need for and importance of this grade separation project.

Sincerely,

Christopher J Jasper  
Director – Emergency Management/911



# MUSCATINE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

3300 Cedar Street P.O. Box 109 Muscatine, IA 52761 (563) 264-5922 email: [conservation@co.muscatine.ia.us](mailto:conservation@co.muscatine.ia.us)

August 23, 2022

Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for the City of Muscatine's Application for a Railroad Crossing Elimination Program Grant

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my strong support for the City of Muscatine's request for a Railroad Crossing Elimination Program planning grant for a grade separation project planned at the highway-rail grade crossing of the Canadian Pacific Railway at Dick Drake Way in Muscatine, Iowa. This project would transform the existing, highway-rail grade crossing into a grade-separated multimodal crossing, improving safety, efficiency of vehicular traffic flow, and community access to the southern part of Muscatine, especially with the anticipated merger of the Canadian Pacific Railway (CP) and Kansas City Southern Railway (KCS).

- **Safety:** This project is anticipated to improve safety on multiple fronts. It will enable emergency responders to reach all parts of the city without the potential delay at highway-rail grade crossings. By providing a safer crossing option, this project will also mitigate current, unsafe behaviors of motorists and pedestrians at highway-rail grade crossings.
- **Efficiency:** The City of Muscatine has 15 highway-railroad grade crossings, containing up to four tracks, which currently cause transportation barriers and congestion. Once the CP/KCS merger is approved and joint rail operations begin, the City of Muscatine anticipates train traffic increasing from approximately 6 trains per day to 20 trains per day, potentially increasing vehicular delay and traffic congestion. This project will improve efficiency of vehicular traffic flow and the overall movement of people and goods throughout the city by providing one route for the traveling public resilient to barriers and delay caused by trains occupying highway-rail grade crossings.
- **Accessibility:** The southern part of Muscatine, which includes several residences, businesses, industries, community resources, and emergency services, is an economically disadvantaged area that is physically separated from the rest of the city by active rail lines. With the potential for increased train traffic, more frequent blocked crossings would limit access to resources and necessities for many people. By providing a grade-separated crossing through this project, the City of Muscatine can enhance access for many who live or work in disadvantaged neighborhoods.

The City of Muscatine continues to make significant investments in community amenities and services and are committed to prioritizing the quality of life in the city by improving vehicular and pedestrian access to these amenities and services, as well as a continued commitment to public safety. For these reasons, I would urge your strongest consideration of this application for the grade separation and the critical improvements this project would provide. My support, the support of CP, as well as many other Iowa partners and the public, demonstrates that our community and the State of Iowa understands the need for and importance of this grade separation project.

Sincerely,

  
Curtis Weiss, Director



Public Safety Building, 312 E. Fifth St.  
Muscatine, IA 52761  
(563) 263-9233  
Fax (563) 263-5534

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FIRE DEPARTMENT

August 18, 2022

Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for the City of Muscatine's Application for a Railroad Crossing Elimination Program Grant

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my strong support for the City of Muscatine's request for a Railroad Crossing Elimination Program planning grant for a grade separation project planned at the highway-rail grade crossing of the Canadian Pacific Railway at Dick Drake Way in Muscatine, Iowa. This project would transform the existing, highway-rail grade crossing into a grade-separated multimodal crossing, improving safety, efficiency of vehicular traffic flow, and community access to the southern part of Muscatine, especially with the anticipated merger of the Canadian Pacific Railway (CP) and Kansas City Southern Railway (KCS).

- **Safety:** This project is anticipated to improve safety on multiple fronts. It will enable us as emergency responders to reach all parts of the city without the potential delay at highway-rail grade crossings. By providing a safer crossing option, this project will also mitigate current, unsafe behaviors of motorists and pedestrians at highway-rail grade crossings.
- **Efficiency:** The City of Muscatine has 15 highway-railroad grade crossings, containing up to four tracks, which currently cause transportation barriers and congestion. Once the CP/KCS merger is approved and joint rail operations begin, the City of Muscatine anticipates train traffic increasing from approximately 6 trains per day to 20 trains per day, potentially increasing vehicular delay and traffic congestion. This project will improve efficiency of vehicular traffic flow and the overall movement of people and goods throughout the city by providing one route for the traveling public resilient to barriers and delay caused by trains occupying highway-rail grade crossings.
- **Accessibility:** The southern part of Muscatine, which includes several residences, businesses, industries, community resources, and a fire station that houses fire and ambulance emergency services, is an economically disadvantaged area that is physically separated from the rest of the city by active rail lines. With the potential for increased train traffic, more frequent blocked crossings would limit access to resources and necessities for many people. By providing a grade-separated crossing through this project, the City of Muscatine can enhance access for many who live or work in disadvantaged neighborhoods.

The City of Muscatine continues to make significant investments in community amenities and services and are committed to prioritizing the quality of life in the city by improving vehicular and pedestrian access to these amenities and services, as well as a continued commitment to public safety. For these reasons, I would urge your strongest consideration of this application for the grade separation and the critical improvements this project would provide. My support as Fire Chief, the support of CP, as well as many other Iowa partners and the public, demonstrates that our community and the State of Iowa understands the need for and importance of this grade separation project.

Sincerely,

Gerald P. Ewers, Fire Chief



City Hall, 215 Sycamore St.  
Muscatine, IA 52761-3840  
(563) 264-1550  
Fax (563) 264-0750

August 16, 2022

Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for the City of Muscatine's Application for a Railroad Crossing Elimination Program Grant

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my strong support for the City of Muscatine's request for a Railroad Crossing Elimination Program planning grant for a grade separation project planned at the highway-rail grade crossing of the Canadian Pacific Railway at Dick Drake Way in Muscatine, Iowa. This project would transform the existing, highway-rail grade crossing into a grade-separated multimodal crossing, improving safety, efficiency of vehicular traffic flow, and community access to the southern part of Muscatine, especially with the anticipated merger of the Canadian Pacific Railway (CP) and Kansas City Southern Railway (KCS).

- **Safety:** This project is anticipated to improve safety on multiple fronts. It will enable emergency responders to reach all parts of the city without the potential delay at highway-rail grade crossings. By providing a safer crossing option, this project will also mitigate current, unsafe behaviors of motorists and pedestrians at highway-rail grade crossings.
- **Efficiency:** The City of Muscatine has 15 highway-railroad grade crossings, containing up to four tracks, which currently cause transportation barriers and congestion. Once the CP/KCS merger is approved and joint rail operations begin, the City of Muscatine anticipates train traffic increasing from approximately 6 trains per day to 20 trains per day, potentially increasing vehicular delay and traffic congestion. This project will improve efficiency of vehicular traffic flow and the overall movement of people and goods throughout the city by providing one route for the traveling public resilient to barriers and delay caused by trains occupying highway-rail grade crossings.
- **Accessibility:** The southern part of Muscatine, which includes several residences, businesses, industries, community resources, and emergency services, is an economically disadvantaged area that is physically separated from the rest of the city by active rail lines. With the potential for increased train traffic, more frequent blocked crossings would limit access to resources and necessities for many people, including emergency services. By providing a grade-separated crossing through this project, the City of Muscatine can enhance access for many who live or work in disadvantaged neighborhoods.

The City of Muscatine continues to make significant investments in community amenities and services and is committed to prioritizing the quality of life in the city by improving vehicular and pedestrian access to these amenities and services, as well as a continued commitment to public safety. For these reasons, I would urge your strongest consideration of this application for the grade separation and the critical improvements this project would provide. My support, the support of CP, as well as many other Iowa partners and the public, demonstrates that our community and the State of Iowa understands the need for and importance of this grade separation project.

Sincerely,

Jodi Royal-Goodwin  
Community Development Director

**"I remember Muscatine for its sunsets. I have never seen any  
on either side of the ocean that equaled them" — Mark Twain**





August 19, 2022

Mr. Douglas Gascon  
Office of Policy and Planning  
Federal Railroad Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Room W38-212  
Washington DC 20590

Dear Mr. Gascon,

Please accept this letter of support for the City of Muscatine, Iowa's Rail Crossing Elimination Program (RCE) grant application seeking planning / design funds for a grade-separation project at the highway-rail crossing of the Canadian Pacific Railway (CP) at Dick Drake Way in Muscatine. Muscatine Power and Water (MPW) is a municipal utility serving Muscatine and the surrounding area with electric, water, and telecommunication services. In addition to serving citizens and territory on both sides of the CP main line through Muscatine, MPW also operates an electric generating station and well fields on the southeast side of the Dick Drake Way crossing.

MPW supports the planning and design of a rail overpass at this location to improve safety, accessibility, and general traffic flow to the area. The CP has indicated that their merger with the Kansas City Southern will increase rail traffic through Muscatine roughly four-fold. In addition, CP identifies this intersection on the Canadian Pacific Acquisition of Kansas City Southern interactive map as one that is both a delay and safety hazard with the new traffic levels. The CP main line travels directly through census blocks in Muscatine that are identified as low income and/or minority populations. This intersection is just to the south of those areas. Providing an overpass at this location is not without design challenges due to existing utility infrastructure; however, it is the one intersection in town most feasible to upgrade to an overpass serving residential, industrial, and train traffic in the area. RCE grant funding will provide for a thorough plan for eliminating this grade level crossing.

There are many benefits associated with this grade separation project. They include:

- Improved safety at that intersection.
  - Eliminates the chance of a vehicle train accident at that intersection.
  - Reduces hazardous product vehicles and busses intersecting with trains in Muscatine.
  - Provides reliable access to the southeast part of town for additional emergency vehicles.
  - Eliminates both a road and walking/bike trail rail crossing of the tracks.
  - With no delays, additional industrial traffic may choose this intersection rather than others within the city.

- Improved traffic flow when rail traffic increases:
  - Improved deliveries of parts and materials to and removal of beneficial reuse materials from the Generation site.
  - Improved community access for our electric, water, and telecommunications crews serving customers on the southeast side of the tracks.
  - Reduce delays for staff and contractors arriving/leaving the Generation site and moving between locations for work and meetings.
- Significantly reduced vehicle emissions:
  - Much of the industrial production activity in Muscatine occurs on the south side of this main track. However, the main supply routes for raw and finished materials into and out of these facilities are located north of the tracks. This results in a significant amount of heavy vehicle traffic at this crossing.
  - A four-fold increase in train traffic will result in a significant increase in traffic idling at this and other crossings in Muscatine. By providing at least one continuously available crossing, the majority of this traffic will be able to flow freely, thus eliminating vehicle idle time at the crossings and significantly reducing emissions.

The Muscatine proposal supports the RCE program by removing a grade level crossing on a heavily traveled crossing that serves both residential and industrial traffic. With the significant proposed increase in rail traffic through Muscatine, having one continuously available crossing will be important to improve safety, provide economic growth opportunities, and maintain accessibility to the southeast side of the tracks.

Sincerely,



Gage Huston  
General Manager



MidAmerican Energy Company  
EconomicAdvantage®  
666 Grand Ave.  
Des Moines, IA 50309-2580  
515-281-8887 Telephone

August 9, 2022

Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for the City of Muscatine's Application for a Railroad Crossing Elimination Program Grant

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As a partner of the City of Muscatine, we are supportive of their request for a Railroad Crossing Elimination Program planning grant for a grade separation project planned at the highway-rail grade crossing of the Canadian Pacific Railway at Dick Drake Way in Muscatine, Iowa. This project would transform the existing, highway-rail grade crossing into a grade-separated multimodal crossing, improving safety, efficiency of vehicular traffic flow, and community access to the southern part of Muscatine, especially with the anticipated merger of the Canadian Pacific Railway (CP) and Kansas City Southern Railway (KCS).

- **Safety:** This project is anticipated to improve safety on multiple fronts. It will enable emergency responders to reach all parts of the city without the potential delay at highway-rail grade crossings. By providing a safer crossing option, this project will also mitigate current, unsafe behaviors of motorists and pedestrians at highway-rail grade crossings.
- **Efficiency:** The City of Muscatine has 15 highway-railroad grade crossings, containing up to four tracks, which currently cause transportation barriers and congestion. Once the CP/KCS merger is approved and joint rail operations begin, the City of Muscatine anticipates train traffic increasing from approximately 6 trains per day to 20 trains per day, potentially increasing vehicular delay and traffic congestion. This project will improve efficiency of vehicular traffic flow and the overall movement of people and goods throughout the city by providing one route for the traveling public resilient to barriers and delay caused by trains occupying highway-rail grade crossings.
- **Accessibility:** The southern part of Muscatine, which includes several residences, businesses, industries, community resources, and emergency services, is an economically disadvantaged area that is physically separated from the rest of the city by active rail lines. With the potential for increased train traffic, more frequent blocked crossings would limit access to resources and necessities for many people. By providing a grade-separated crossing through this project, the City of Muscatine can enhance access for many who live or work in disadvantaged neighborhoods.



MidAmerican Energy Company  
EconomicAdvantage®  
666 Grand Ave.  
Des Moines, IA 50309-2580  
515-281-8887 Telephone

The City of Muscatine continues to make significant investments in community amenities and services and are committed to prioritizing the quality of life in the city by improving vehicular and pedestrian access to these amenities and services, as well as a continued commitment to public safety. For these reasons, I urge your strongest consideration of this application for the grade separation and the critical improvements this project would provide. Our support, as well as many other Iowa partners, demonstrates Muscatine and the State of Iowa understands the need for and importance of this grade separation project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathryn M. Kunert". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathryn M. Kunert  
Vice President, Economic Connections and Integration