

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 20, 2012

The Honorable Ray LaHood  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood,

As you are well aware, our country has many infrastructure issues including crumbling bridges, especially in the state of Illinois and Iowa, which serve as crossroads for the entire country. The Quad Cities represent a major transportation corridor that should not be ignored and we were pleased that you were able to come out to the area and see the I-74 Bridge between Bettendorf, Iowa and Moline, Illinois.

As you saw on your trip, the I-74 Bridge is in grave need of replacement. Doing so would not only help address the safety and transportation needs of such an important transportation corridor, but it would also help create jobs and increase the economic viability of the region. The Illinois Department of Transportation has previously stated that the I-74 Bridge is high priority for the state of Illinois, but that they require federal funding to complete this project with the state of Iowa.

We encourage you to place the I-74 Bridge as a high priority for the U.S. Department of Transportation. We specifically support the inclusion of I-74 in the announced plan by the Administration to use unspent funds to help move transportation projects forward. This bridge fits the important criteria of fixing our crumbling infrastructure, and creating jobs, supporting our economic recovery, and we encourage you to include the I-74 Bridge in this plan.

Again, thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to continuing our work to reinvest in the necessary infrastructure for our country to be safe and thrive.

Sincerely,



Bobby Schilling  
House of Representatives



Dave Loebsack  
House of Representatives