

April 23, 2009

Congressman Latham:

I am writing on behalf of the Ames Area MPO to express support for federal funding related to the **North Dakota Avenue/UPRR Grade Separation** project, which is included in our 2005 Long Range Transportation Plan. We view this project as having the following benefits:

- **Safety and Mobility Benefits** - the project meets both mobility and safety goals. It improves safety by separating traffic on a collector street from an at-grade crossing of the UPRR mainline tracks. It will improve mobility for vehicles, bikes, pedestrians, buses, and emergency vehicles.
- **Economic Development** - this will provide unimpeded access to the City of Ames NW growth Priority Area. This is planned for both residential and commercial growth.
- **Environmental Benefits** - air quality should be improved due to eliminating idling vehicles waiting for trains at the existing at-grade crossing.

Thank you for you support and consideration.

Sincerely,



John C. Joiner, P.E.
AAMPO Administrator