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May 6, 2009

The Honorable Representative Tom Latham  
2217 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Latham:

The City of Mason City is seeking support for the design and construction of a road widening for Eisenhower Avenue from Highway 122 to 12<sup>th</sup> Street NW and 12<sup>th</sup> Street NW from Eisenhower Avenue to Pierce Avenue. The widening requires the replacement of two bridges located at 12<sup>th</sup> Street and Taft Avenue and 13<sup>th</sup> Street NE over the Winnebago River. **The project is supported by our City Council based on the vote of approval by the City Council on May 5, 2009 to file the application for funding. The City of Mason City is requesting 80% of the funding for the project. The City will provide the other 20% of funding from other state grants, Local Option Sales and Service Tax and General Obligation Bonds.** The project has merit on all levels of interest such as safety, economic development, mobility and environmental benefits.

The widened roadway would provide a safer route for the public and provide for expansion and increased traffic volumes. The roadway supports two major industries within the community that have high volumes of semi truck traffic. The improved roadway would provide greater safe distances for oncoming traffic reducing the potential for serious accidents. The widened roadway will become a more frequently traveled route eliminating traffic on Highway 122. The widened roadway will become a route of choice for individuals traveling to the north and northeast portions of the community with ease. The completion of this project will provide an alternative for truck and automobile traffic, in turn reducing the amount of congestion on Highway 122.

The project will provide economic benefits of free flow traffic that reduces expenses of citizens, businesses and school transportation. The school system uses this route regularly to move children to and from school. The widened roadway will become a bypass route for semi truck traffic that will provide for efficiencies with their truck operations through the smooth flow of traffic. The improved route could lead to new potential economic development prospects involved with trucking operations. The environmental benefits come from reduced idling time of vehicles by utilization of the improved route versus usage of Highway 122. Highway 122 has multiple traffic signals and high traffic volumes that cause additional idling time, thereby reducing emissions.

The City will conduct public meetings to discuss the design and process to complete the project as it proceeds. We will answer questions they may have and give them the points of contact for the project in order to allow them a method to stay informed with correct information.

The City Council of Mason City supports the construction of this project and looks forward to working with the Congressman in order to acquire the funding necessary to make it happen.

Sincerely,



Brent Trout  
City Administrator