



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

March 27, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the MODES East Beltway Project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is Mahaska County, Iowa, located at 106 South 1st Street, Oskaloosa, IA 52577.

The funding for this project would address safety and congestion issues caused by heavy freight traffic flowing directly through downtown Oskaloosa, IA, local and state stakeholders are developing the MODES East Beltway, a new bypass corridor. This project, currently transitioning from planning to design and land acquisition, aims to create a reliable loop around the city to improve freight mobility and protect residential neighborhoods.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it demonstrates a strong return on investment, yielding a discounted benefit-cost ratio of 2.69:1 and nearly \$17 million in discounted travel time savings. Beyond these quantified metrics, the project is expected to significantly improve vehicular safety, reduce heavy truck traffic through downtown Oskaloosa, and bolster the local economy by enhancing access to industrial areas. While this current funding request focuses on the design and land acquisition phases, the full scope of benefits, including improved quality of life and emergency preparedness, will be realized upon the corridor's completion.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 23 USC 133.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mariannette J. Miller-Meeks".

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