



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

March 31, 2023

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Pella University Street Extension project in Fiscal Year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Pella located at 825 Broadway Street, Pella, IA 50219.

The funding would be used for the extension of University Street from 240th Avenue to 250th Avenue (approximately 5,300 linear feet), which is intended to provide a critical transportation linkage to a preferred residential growth area in the City of Pella's Comprehensive Plan. This area of the community is in close proximity to Madison Elementary School, Pella Community School's Early Learning Center, Pella Christian High School, and the Pella Sports Park. As a result, this area is identified in the city's Comprehensive Plan for additional residential development (see enclosure #1, development concept plan). However, for additional development to occur, University Street will need to be extended. It is important to note, this street extension will also provide a primary access to the proposed 78,000 square foot indoor recreation center which will be located in the northwest corner of the Pella Sports Park. The new indoor recreation center is intended to meet the community's growing recreation needs and proposes the following amenities: four full-sized gymnasiums, a recreation swimming pool, a competition swimming pool, cardio workout areas, child watch area, an indoor walking track, meeting rooms, and an atrium (see enclosure #3, Pella Rec Center presentation). Finally, the University Street extension will also include a new 12" water main which will improve fire flow coverage in the eastern side of our community.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because Pella is an employment center for southeastern Iowa and the corporate headquarters for both Pella Corporation and Vermeer Corporation along with many other businesses. Recruiting and retaining workforce is a crucial component for the overall health of the community. The indoor recreation center will assist businesses in attracting and retaining the necessary talent to remain competitive in rural Iowa. The preferred location for the indoor recreation center that has the most potential for additional development is at the Pella Sports Park, which will require the extension of University Street. Furthermore, according to an economic analysis of the construction of the indoor recreation center and the extension of University Street, these two projects are projected to have an economic impact of nearly \$100 million for the State of Iowa and provide nearly 700 jobs during the construction of these assets.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(2).

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, reading "Mariannette Miller Meeks". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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