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5/7/2020

Office of the Secretary of Transportation, USDOT
Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD Transportation Discretionary
Grants)

Greetings,

On behalf of the Tipton Development, I would like to offer my full support of the Highway 38 Improvements project and the BUILD grant that the City of Tipton is applying for to help pay for this critical project. As the City economic development entity, we value any project which enhances the quality of life in the community because that attracts and retains employees.

The Highway 38 Improvements project will:

- increase pedestrian and motorist safety
- eliminate or reduce flooding and improve wastewater collection and treatment
- improve pedestrian and bicycle connectivity with important points-of-interest and recreational opportunities
- strengthen fire-protection capabilities
- enhance streetscapes and encourage cleanup and other development

Tipton Development is actively seeking quality, community minded businesses to join our progressive community. Building for the future, several city infrastructure projects have been completed with additional projects slated for completion over the next several years. Highway 38 is the primary north-south thoroughfare through Tipton and carries goods and travelers north connecting them to Highway 30 to travel west to Cedar Rapids, and south to connect to Interstate 80 connecting them to Iowa City or Davenport.

Businesses are telling us that the highway 38 Improvements, along with other planned infrastructure projects, are needed in order for them to prepare for future facility and

workforce expansions. One manufacturer just added three new customers in three years and plans to expand because of this additional activity and in order to secure additional business, translating into up to \$750,000 of private investment. This same company is hoping to create and retain 23 jobs. A small farm business is looking to create and retain seven jobs at a \$400,000 investment.

The Highway 38 Improvements project represents a planned-out priority, is supported by diverse partners, and most importantly the project is design- and shovel-ready with all required approvals obtained and cash match ready to use. For these reasons, I encourage you to support this application and assist the City of Tipton and its partners in becoming a major regional engine of economic growth. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Beck". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Linda Beck
Tipton Development Director