



CRAWFORD COUNTY

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Crawford County is an equal opportunity provider and employer

May 2, 2016

United States Department of Transportation
ATTN: Anthony Foxx, Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Regarding: Grayling Region I – 75 Access project:

The Crawford County Board of Commissioners would like to express their complete and unanimous support for the Grayling Access Project that will include the construction of a full service interchange at North Down River Road and I – 75 in Grayling. This summer we have already started the replacement of the Grayling Fish Hatchery Bridge over the East Branch of the AuSable River along with the resurfacing of North Down River Road from I – 75 to the I – 75 Business Loop. The completion of these projects will allow the remaining focus to be exclusively on the four-way interchange. Success in acquiring a TIGER Discretionary Grant would provide the funding needed to achieve this long awaited goal.

A full service interchange has been needed in our community for quite some time. The construction of such an interchange would alleviate a number of traffic issues that we currently experience within the city involving emergency vehicles needing to travel through town in order to serve those at the south end of the city. Other traffic advantages would be realized regarding the military traffic to and from Camp Grayling along with those individuals that need to access our hospital or the airport which are both located in the northern part of our community. It goes without saying that the impact this interchange could have with regards to the economic development in our area is limitless. There are many opportunities in a rural, economically depressed area, to improve our situation. We have a strong K-12 school system, our local hospital was recently awarded a top 100 small hospital, and we have a number of miles of non-motorized trails. Currently our community college is in the process of placing a multi-million dollar development near I – 75. The success of this project will greatly increase the traffic flow in and out of the city while reducing the safety risks associated with emergency vehicles traveling in congested city streets. Although many community organizations/agencies are in agreement of the need, we will not be able to do this on our own.

I cannot adequately express how important this project is to our area. Community leaders have been discussing the need for a full service interchange over the last 15 years. The need has only been magnified in that time. This project could also be the economic catalyst this community has needed for a very long time.

We believe these projects are critical to the viability and growth of our entire community. Please contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss the benefits of this project further. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David J. Stephenson" with a stylized flourish at the end.

David J. Stephenson, Chair
Crawford County Board of Commissioners