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MAY 16, 2013

The Honorable Raymond LaHood, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Honorable Secretary LaHood,

I am writing to support the Crawford County Road Commission's Grayling Region I-75 Access Project to receive funding from the FY 2013 TIGER Grant. Their project proposal is well researched. It has been studied since the 1990's and is the preferred alternative identified by the 2008 federally funded regional traffic study.

The project would include an upgrade to the I-75 North / Down River Road interchange from half to full access. Additionally, North Down River Road would be widened from BL-75 to the I-75 interchange, as well as, replace a bridge on the same road over the East Branch Au Sable River. Furthermore, the project would make other bridge and road improvements to handle all-season traffic. It would also make the area friendlier to other modes of transportation by adding sidewalks and bike lanes along parts of the road, which would connect to existing trail systems.

With these alterations and additions proposed by the Grayling Region I-75 Access Project, the Crawford County community would be more livable and sustainable. It would allow more direct access to the highway, as well as military installations, the hospital, airport, railhead, schools, emergency facilities, and more. In doing so public safety would increase drastically by saving response time for over 21,800 hospital emergency room visits per year, and prevent an estimated 70 accidents in 20 years. The economic analyses prove that the benefits greatly exceed the costs over the first 20 years, as well as save transportation maintenance costs on local, state, and national levels. The savings and jobs this project creates will positively impact the economic development of the community for years to come.

Thank you for your time in reading this. Once again, I urge you to consider the Crawford County Road Commission's Grayling Region I-75 Access Project as a recipient of the FY 3012 TIGER Grant.

Sincerely,

John Moolenaar
State Senator