

April 23, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Sir:

On behalf of Munson Healthcare Grayling Hospital, I am writing this letter of support for the road and bridge construction project upgrades to the I-75/North Down River Road interchange from half to full access. Munson Healthcare Grayling Hospital serves a six county area and provides over 20,000 emergency room visits per year for the rural communities in our service area. Expanded access at the North Down River Road interchange will allow emergency vehicles and patients more direct access to our facility. Our own time study indicates that it takes five to six minutes to access the hospital from northbound I-75 using Business Route I-75. With improved access at North Down River Road, access time drops to one to two minutes. When seconds count in an emergency, the improved access will help save lives.

Constructing a full interchange at this location would solve several transportation issues in and around the Grayling, Michigan area. Constructing a full interchange at this location would solve several transportation issues in and around the Grayling, Michigan area. The current entrance and exit ramps in and out of Grayling are confusing, frustrating and inefficient; and exacerbate an already problematic reduction of traffic lanes by the State in the downtown area.

This project will organize and enhance links between roadway, rail, airport, and non-motorized transportation facilities delivering benefits on a regional and national scale. The largest National Guard Base east of the Mississippi is located in Grayling. Constructing a full interchange outside the downtown area would greatly improve the mobility of military traffic to the Grayling Army Airfield and Mobilization and Training Equipment site. The location of these facilities currently forces military convoys and heavy equipment through the center of town.

In conclusion, on behalf of Munson Healthcare Grayling Hospital and the community at-large, I wholeheartedly support and encourage a **full** interchange at I-75 and North Down River Road. Thank you for your serious consideration and action on this matter.

Sincerely,



Stephanie J. Riemer
President