



FACILITIES & SERVICES

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1501 S. Oak St.
Champaign, IL 61820-6905

February 21, 2019

Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE, 9th Floor
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

In 2008, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign leadership signed the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment, formally committing to become a carbon neutral campus as soon as possible, and no later than 2050. As progression towards the carbon neutral initiative continues, the University searches for opportunities within the surrounding communities to help expand renewable energy use. In cooperation with the *Village of Savoy's Curtis Road Grade Separation and Complete Streets Project*, the University plans to use energy generated from the upcoming Solar Farm 2.0 Project along Curtis Road to power street and pedestrian path lighting. The 55-acre solar farm is planned to be constructed in 2019.

The Curtis Road grade separation bridge will create a safer and improved crossing of the CN/IC railroad for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians, resulting in increased mobility and improved access to the existing transportation network of Champaign-Urbana Urbanized area. The project will also result in a number of other benefits for the region, including:

- Reduction in travel time for fire and emergency services
- Opportunities for economic growth and development
- Multi-modal transportation improvements along Curtis Road and at the railroad crossing
- Safe and efficient movement of commuters, students, good and services

Completion of the grade separation bridge at Curtis Road in Savoy, Illinois, along with the complete street improvements to Curtis Road in the vicinity of the bridge are important projects needed to achieve the safety, economic, and sustainability goals that have been set and pursued by residents and leaders in the community, including the University of Illinois. For these reasons, I ask for your full consideration of the Village of Savoy's application for INFRA funding assistance.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mohamed Attalla, MBA, P.ENG
Executive Director, Facilities & Services