

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1317**

February 25, 2015

Governor Bruce Rauner  
Office of the Governor  
207 State House  
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Acting-Secretary Randy Blankenhorn  
Illinois Department of Transportation  
Hanley Building  
2300 S. Dirksen Parkway, Room 300  
Springfield, Illinois 62764

Dear Governor Rauner and Acting-Secretary Blankenhorn:

I am writing to you today to respectfully urge you to consider my top priorities for transportation funding within Illinois' 17<sup>th</sup> Congressional District as you continue to review State projects for funding. As you know, Illinois' 17th Congressional District is a central hub for shipping goods and people over road, rail and water, as well as through the air. The region is also home to thousands of miles of highway that connect east to west and north to south.

As a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Highways and Transit Subcommittees, I am committed to fighting for all of the region's roads, bridges and other transportation needs because investing in our infrastructure will not only create jobs now, but will lead to more efficient movement of our goods and greater future prosperity.

I have included a list of some of my top priorities for transportation funding within the 17<sup>th</sup> District:

***Interstate 74 Mississippi River Crossing, Quad-Cities***

The I-74 Bridge is in urgent need of replacement due to crashes, recurring congestion, and significant maintenance; built for a daily crossing of 48,000 vehicles, the daily average is 80,000. The bridge is functionally obsolete with no shoulders and has never met Interstate standards, and crashes along portions of the I-74 corridor exceed three times the national average.

***Expand U.S. 20 to four lanes between Freeport and Galena***

Widening the two-lane highway from Freeport to Galena could spur development by allowing easier transport of goods and services throughout the Midwest and increasing safety for those that use this road. Most of existing U.S. 20 between Galena and Freeport does not meet the Illinois Department of Transportation's current design standards for rural highways.

***U.S. 30 in Whiteside County***

Studies by the Illinois Department of Transportation, such as the Environmental Impact Study and Phase 1 Engineering show that U.S. 30 has reached its design limits in its current two-lane configuration. U.S. 30 in its present condition is congested, unsafe, cannot provide the necessary transportation route to support planned and anticipated economic development in this region and does not provide a safe route for the traveling public.

***U.S. 24 Expansion in Fulton County***

The expansion of U.S. 24 from two lanes to four lanes, between Kingston Mines and Banner, IL, is Fulton County's top transportation priority. In its current state, this heavily utilized roadway is a significant safety risk and thus, a growing concern to the community. An increase in lanes would eliminate the safety hazard and increase economic development in the county.

***Eastern Bypass between Interstate 74 and Illinois Route 6***

New highway construction that would connect I-74 with Illinois Route 6 east and north of Peoria would have significant positive impacts to business and economic development, as well as provide improved transportation, efficient access connecting communities and traffic flow for local workforce and population. Construction of this bypass would better connect the region and, specifically, communities in Peoria, Tazewell and Woodford County.

***U.S. 34 between Monmouth, IL and Burlington, IA***

Expand U.S. 34 from two lanes to four lanes to provide a safe and reliable transportation corridor. IDOT has identified three high accident locations within the 23.6 miles of the two-lane road, and expansion of this stretch of highway to four lanes would not only increase safety, but reduce congestion.

***Passenger Rail from Chicago to the 17<sup>th</sup> Congressional District***

I am pleased that funding was awarded in 2011 to begin rail service between Chicago and the Quad-Cities. I have been working with local communities to keep this project on track because it will lead to hundreds of jobs being created and provide a big boost to the region and Illinois' economy. I am also pleased about the recent announcement regarding passenger rail service from Chicago to Rockford and will continue to work to eventually get service to Galena and beyond.

Thank you for taking these transportation recommendations into consideration. I look forward to working with you to fund transportation projects that reflect the needs and realities of those in my district and across the country.

Sincerely,



Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress