



Iowa Department of Transportation

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September 23, 2013

The Honorable T.M. Franklin Cownie and Des Moines City Council Members
City of Des Moines
400 Robert D. Ray Drive
Des Moines, IA 50309

Subject: Proposed highway-railroad crossing closures

Dear Mayor Cownie and City Council Members:

I originally wrote to you regarding this subject on November 8, 2012. As you are now preparing for your next vote on this matter, I wanted to take the opportunity to write to you again about investments to support freight movements in the state of Iowa.

As stated in my earlier letter, freight transportation is in the spotlight today with projections of growth in freight of up to 60 percent by 2040 according to the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). To accommodate this projected growth in freight shipments, the transportation system, including all modes of transportation, will need to be strengthened. Investments in Iowa's multimodal system will be critical to assure Iowa's businesses and industries continue to have access to a reliable and cost competitive transportation system.

The Iowa DOT has recognized this issue and, beginning last legislative session, sought new opportunities to provide flexible funding to address Iowa's multimodal freight transportation needs. We will continue to pursue those opportunities this coming session.

In addition to meeting freight transportation needs, we also recognize that some freight transportation investments can have impacts on neighborhood connectivity, convenient access to destinations, or other facets of community life. Therefore, transportation investments to mitigate these impacts are also part of this funding discussion. We will advocate for funding that provides flexibility in addressing freight needs across Iowa and any corresponding mitigation needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely,

Paul Trombino III
Director