

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1304

March 15, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing in support of the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission's application for Automated Driving System (ADS) Demonstration Grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation. Funding for their three projects in the Greater Peoria Area will allow for research and the collection of data that will inform federal policy regarding ADS.

Several companies located in the Greater Peoria Area have experience in developing and selling autonomous vehicle technology regionally and around the world, making this region a strategic location for this initiative. This proposal would build on the region's existing foundation in this industry and spur economic growth in the area by cultivating a hub for ADS testing and innovation. The Greater Peoria Area experiences diverse weather conditions and its infrastructure contains a mix of both rural and urban roadways, making this region the ideal model for safety testing prior to national integration. The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission is working in partnership with a variety of public stakeholders (City of Peoria, Peoria Mass Transit District, Peoria County, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, Village of Morton, Tazewell County) as well as private ones (AutonomouStuff, Bradley University, Greater Peoria EDC, Hanson Engineering, Illinois Autonomous Vehicles Association, Nexmobi).

I urge you to give this application the most serious consideration and I look forward to working with the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, the public and private stakeholders, and the Department of Transportation to implement this proposal that would greatly benefit the Greater Peoria Area and the nation as a whole. Thank you for your attention to this matter and if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at my Springfield office at (217) 492-4062.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

RJD/dl