

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1501**

April 28, 2022

The Honorable David Price  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Transportation,  
Housing and Urban Development, &  
Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Transportation,  
Housing and Urban Development, &  
Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Price and Ranking Member Diaz-Balart:

As you begin crafting the fiscal year 2023 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, & Related Agencies Appropriations bill, I respectfully request that you include \$7,000,000 in community project funding for the City of Marion's Alburnett Road Extension Project, located at 1225 6th Avenue, Marion, IA 52302.

Marion is a suburban neighborhood outside of Cedar Rapids and one of the fastest growing cities in the State of Iowa. The number of people traveling on the roads of Marion has grown at unprecedented rates in recent years due to its major population growth and the impressive business development that draws on employees from nearby communities. Traffic volume is expected to double by 2040. The Alburnett Road Extension is a planned minor arterial street that will connect the residential and recreational areas north of Boyson Road to the business and downtown districts along Marion Boulevard.

The Alburnett Road Extension project was initiated in 1999 through the selection of a preferred route as part of a feasibility study. Since that time, the city, local property owners, and the development community have cooperated to ensure this selected corridor is maintained in a developable capacity. Appropriate traffic evaluation, cultural resources investigations, environmental evaluation reporting, bridge, culvert, and roadway design have all been completed.

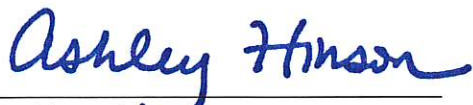
This project will feature a three-lane roadway with left turn lanes at intersections, on-street bike lanes, eight-foot sidewalks on each side of the street, trail connections to the existing and proposed trail networks, long overdue traffic signals at the Alburnett Road intersections with Marion Boulevard, 8th Avenue, and Boyson Road, and bioswales to transport stormwater runoff while removing sediment and debris.

The Alburnett Road Extension project is a top priority for the City of Marion and has been strategically developed and planned for over twenty years. While the growth of this community is impressive, it has outpaced the existing infrastructure that currently provides these pathways. This project presents an environmentally friendly strategy to increase safety for our children, reduce the risk of floods, connect a region with higher rates of non-vehicle households and poverty with trails and accessible roadways, and improve quality of life by reducing congestion and risk on the roads.

To say this project has robust community support would be an understatement. I received letters of support from local elected officials, the Marion Police Department, the Marion Fire Department, the community school district, the Marion Economic Development Corporation and 190 of their local business partners, and others. This roadway will provide long-overdue improvements to the community's safety, wellbeing, efficiency, and economic opportunity, impacting the daily lives of thousands of my constituents.

I strongly urge the Committee to include this community project funding request in the FY23 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, & Related Agencies Appropriations bill. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



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Ashley Hinson  
Member of Congress  
Committee on Appropriations