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CITY MANAGER

April 20, 2021

The Honorable Mark Pocan  
U.S. Representative 2nd District of Wisconsin  
10 East Doty Street, Suite 405  
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Representative Pocan,

The purpose of this letter is to provide absolute assurance on behalf of the City of Beloit, Wisconsin of our ability to provide \$400,000 in matching funds for a \$2 million prospective award for the widening of Willowbrook Road from Stateline Road to Colley Road in Beloit, Wisconsin. This project is already partially designed and we are fully prepared to move forward with final design and construction. This funding would enable the project to move into the construction phase in 2022. The improvements in the southeast area of the City of Beloit will accommodate planned large-scale economic development projects.

This 0.82 mile stretch of Willowbrook Road from Colley Road to Stateline Road currently has concrete pavement, three traffic lanes, and curb and gutter and sidewalk on the west side only. The road will be widened to accommodate an additional northbound traffic lane, curb and gutter, storm sewer and a shared use path on the east side.

The project is needed to accommodate significant increases in motor vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian traffic brought about by the coming construction of a major economic development project, consisting of a hotel, convention center, restaurants and casino, by the Ho-Chunk Nation, a federally recognized tribe.

The casino destination resort project is expected to produce 1,500 permanent jobs, most of which will go to area residents in a community with chronically high unemployment levels and where more than 24% of residents currently live in poverty. The infrastructure construction will provide short term construction jobs followed by long-term transportation options for employment opportunities at the casino resort, two adjacent industrial parks and ancillary commercial developments anticipated in the vicinity of the casino resort.

This project is being coordinated with the planned Willowbrook Road reconstruction project in the City of South Beloit, IL. That project will connect with Beloit's project at the state line, continue south to Prairie Hill Road, and include intersection improvements at Illinois 75 (Gardner Street). This will provide direct access to the casino development from I-39/90, especially for visitors traveling north to Wisconsin.

As the Chief Executive Officer for the City of Beloit, I have the authority to make this commitment and provide this assurance. The City of Beloit stands ready and able to carry out this vital project. The City assures funding is available and will be obligated within the time period set forth under federal-aid highway or federal transit requirements.

Sincerely,



Lori S. Curtis Luther  
City Manager