

MIKE BOST
12TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
RANKING MEMBER

TRANSPORTATION &
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1312

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April 28, 2022

The Honorable Rose L. DeLauro
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting \$1,000,000 for the Post Creek Cut Off Bridge Replacement in fiscal year 2023.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the Pulaski County, located at 300 Dakota Rd Villa Ridge, IL 62996.

The funding would be used for the removal of the existing bridge, waterline, and approaches. They would construct a PPC I-beam bridge with reinforced concrete deck. Along with construction of abutments with piles driven to bed rock. Also, the county would replaceme the current approaches with concrete slabs and asphalt. The county would add an 8" waterline attached to the structure. The new bridge will replace a bridge, built in 1938. A bridge beyond its design life. The new bridge will promote efficiency, and safety on the roadway while guaranteeing a vital roadway remains open in Pulaski County.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is anticipated to have the following benefits. Rick Ridge Road is an extremely important roadway for Pulaski County, and surrounding counties. The roadway is a Major Collector with an average of 550 vehicles per day. Many Pulaski residents depend on this bridge to travel to healthcare facilities and obtain goods. The route is a popular roadway for tractor trailers, as it provides an indirect route between Paducah, KY and Cape Girardeau, MO. The route is an important roadway for school students and local farmers. The Ohio River is only 3/4's of a mile downstream, and thus the roadway is part of the Ohio Scenic River Byway. The bridge helps to provide direct access to recreational facilities for camping and safe boat access facilities on the Ohio River. Deterioration of the existing bridge results in wear and tear of the vehicles using the roadway. Potholes on the old bridge consistently require patching. The continuous cycle of potholes and maintenance on the potholes is a drain on commuters/taxpayers directly and indirectly though the highway department's budget. The project would improve safety as far as the bridge itself. The current lanes are narrow compared to today's standards with no shoulders. The railing is well below todays crash related standards. The bridge will also act as a facility for a Fort Massac Waterline to cross the stream. The project will provide a tremendous benefit for a very diverse group of travelers and residents for diverse reasons.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Bost". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mike Bost
Member of Congress