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12TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

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May 20, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-307, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting \$900,000 for the Poplar Street Rehabilitation Project in Carbondale, IL in fiscal year 2026.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Carbondale, located at 200 S. Illinois Ave, Carbondale, IL 62901.

The proposed project will restore the full length of Poplar Street (0.75 miles) from West Mill Street to West Sycamore Street. The project will consist of resurfacing, including milling of the old surface, pavement and curb patching as necessary, curb ramp upgrades, installation of new hot-mix asphalt paving, installation of pavement markings, and appurtenant construction.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is anticipated to have the following benefits. Poplar Street is one of the most important connection roads in Carbondale for public transit, connecting State Route 13 to both Southern Illinois University (SIU) and Southern Illinois Healthcare (SIH) Memorial Hospital. SIU and SIH are the City's two largest employers and two vital institutions, not only to Carbondale, but to the Southern Illinois region. The need for this project was determined by the large daily traffic count (up to 2,750 per day) and poor pavement rating (per Carbondale's Pavement Condition Index rating part of the road were rated "very poorly"). The deterioration of the road has reached the point where preservation techniques such as micro-surfacing no longer suffice in keeping them in a state of good repair. Additionally, this causes concern for stormwater capabilities of the streets as loose pavement is washed into the system and stormwater infiltration through the pavement is causing underground erosion and pavement failures.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by chapter 53 of title 49 of the United States Code. I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Mike Bost  
Member of Congress