



March 28, 2024

City of Goddard Kansas  
118 N Main  
PO Box 667  
Goddard KS, 67052  
RE: Pedestrian Bridge US54

Dear Mayor George W. Liebe,

As Executive Director of the Regional Economic Area Partnership (REAP), I support the City of Goddard's application for federal discretionary grant funding for the Pedestrian Bridge in Goddard Project. REAP connects 30+ communities across 10 counties in South Central Kansas, convening partners for collaboration on regional issues, developing and supporting regional initiatives and strategies, and advocating for the region.

The proposed Project consists of the construction of a bicycle/pedestrian bridge over US-54/400 between 183rd Street and 199th Street to serve as a connecting link in the city's active transportation network by crossing a major highway barrier dividing the community. This project will drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve carbon sinks by providing a transportation alternative for the 22,000 daily vehicles utilizing the location for travel.

The project will provide significant benefits, including:

- Reduced Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from idling vehicles,
- Reduced GHG emissions as a result of mode shift from personal vehicles to active transportation,
- Improved crossing safety by separating cyclists and pedestrians from vehicular traffic,
- Reduced vehicle dependency through dedicated bicycle and pedestrian connections to expand the local active transportation network

I would reiterate that this project addresses significant safety concerns as it will reduce the dangers of pedestrians and bicyclists having no safe way to cross the 4-lane highway. Most of the residents in Goddard live north of the highway, and most of the essential public services in the community are south of the highway.

This Project is consistent with the EPA's federal grant program's goal to address GHG pollution contributing to climate change. I support this valuable project and hope it will receive the critical funding and resources needed to advance this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marcy Aycock', written over the printed name and title.

Dr. Marcy Aycock  
Executive Director, REAP