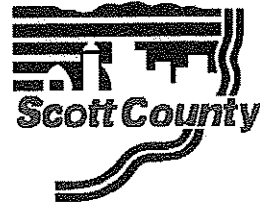


SCOTT COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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June 28, 2017

Yvonne Diller, Program Manager
Federal Recreational Trails Funding Program
Office of Systems Planning
Iowa Department of Transportation
800 Lincoln Way
Ames, IA 50010

Dear Ms. Diller,

This letter is to support River Action's effort to build First Bridge, a bicycle/pedestrian bridge that will replicate one span of the first railroad bridge across the Mississippi.

First Bridge will satisfy many different needs in the community while also creating opportunities for a variety of new partnerships in a fast-developing neighborhood. In addition to providing safe crossing over US-67 from new developments on 4th Street to the recently renovated River Heritage Park, First Bridge will commemorate a pivotal moment in local and national history.

Completed in 1856, the original first bridge was a "Gateway to the West," and a crucial link in the transcontinental railroad. When steamboat companies brought a suit against the railroad, a young Abraham Lincoln defended the railroad's right of access. Lincoln's belief that rails and bridges would and should bind together people in distant parts of the country prefigured his later commitment to the Union's preservation, and the case itself laid the groundwork for his rise to national prominence—and the presidency.

As a multi-purpose monument to this historic structure, First Bridge will honor this legacy by creating opportunities to forge new links within this community between trail users, developers, business owners, cultural organizations, and public agencies. A project like this, which improves safety, expands options for sustainable transportation, and which serves as a historical focal point in a region already rich in cultural history, will benefit the whole community, binding it together in partnership and mutual growth.

On behalf of the Scott County Board of Supervisors, I can attest that the First Bridge Project will create opportunities for collaboration among trail users, community members, and public and private organizations. I wish to express my wholehearted support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol Earnhardt". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Carol Earnhardt, Chairman
Scott County Board of Supervisors