

Braley seeks millions for 2 Clinton projects

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— CLINTON — U.S. Rep. Bruce Braley, D-Iowa, announced Friday that his funding requests for job creation in Iowa as part of the 2009 Highway Bill include two Clinton projects. Braley's list of funding requests, which can be viewed on his Web site, includes a request of \$4,911,719 from the Clinton Regional Development Corp. for the Lincolnway Railport Industrial project and a request for \$12 million by the city of Clinton for the U.S. Highway 30/67 Section Two improvement at Liberty Square.

The Union Pacific Railroad approved access to the railport, as it is adjacent to its mainline, in 2007. Due to congestion on the main line, more than 10,000 feet of track needs to be constructed to accommodate unit trains or trains more than a mile in length. The railport will be located south of U.S. 30 and west of 54th Street. This project is part of the Quality Jobs 4A Strong Future initiative.

The railport will offer the potential for more than 1,000 acres of land, Mississippi River and highway access, the availability of three electric providers and three major natural gas pipelines. It will also allow access to the UP railroad mainline and the Chicago and Eastern line. On Tuesday, it was announced that the Clinton Regional Development Corp. will receive a \$2 million grant from the Iowa Department of Transportation Commission for the project. This grant is one of four awarded by the DOT from funds secured by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

In January, the Iowa Department of Transportation agreed to cover the \$1 million planning cost for the final stage of the Liberty Square U.S. 30/67 project. Final details included survey work, engineering planning, preparations for construction drawings and specifications for improvements, including paving, surface work, landscaping and streetscaping.

The project involves the construction of Liberty Avenue from South Fourth Street to approximately South 24th Place to provide for three lanes of eastbound one-way traffic. Camanche Avenue will also be restriped to convert the existing roadway into a three-lane, one-way westbound road. This project is set to establish the one-way couplet within the Liberty Avenue corridor area and to set the stage for the beginning of redevelopment in the area. The current construction phase is expected to be completed by the end of 2009, with minor sodding and streetscaping scheduled for 2010.

The requests presented by Braley will be considered by the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the House for inclusion in the 2009 Highway Bill. The House is expected to consider the bill later this year.

"These infrastructure projects will help save or create jobs in Iowa and will directly benefit the people I represent," Braley stated in a press release, adding, "Transportation projects create good-paying jobs, spur economic development and grow our local economies. That's why I'm fighting to get funding for these important Iowa projects."