



**VILLAGE
Of
SOUTH
JACKSONVILLE**

Mayor-Elect
Tyson L Manker

April 9, 2021

The Honorable Darin LaHood
US Representative IL 18
201 West Morgan Street
Jacksonville, IL 62650

Dear Congressman LaHood:

I hope that this note finds you well.

As the Mayor-Elect of South Jacksonville, I write in support of the Village's Member Designated Project grant application for the much-needed Pedestrian Access Project along Hardin Avenue. This program would allow the Village to construct pedestrian access facilities along the length of Hardin Avenue.

Even though this portion of Hardin Avenue is one of the highest-traveled local roads, it currently has no accommodations for pedestrians. Two of the largest employers in the communities of Jacksonville and South Jacksonville, Reynolds Consumer Products and Perma-Bound, each have major manufacturing facilities immediately adjacent to the ends of the project and generate a large volume of traffic. However, due to the lack of pedestrian routes pedestrians are currently forced to share a roadway with more than thirteen hundred vehicles per-day, including truck traffic serving the manufacturing facilities—a remarkably dangerous situation. Residents who live on Hardin Avenue have requested pedestrian accommodations for many years, as the roadway serves as a key access point to two parks, Nichols Park and Godfrey Park, which are frequented by families with children, walkers, joggers and other human traffic. Separating pedestrians from vehicular traffic would greatly reduce the potential for serious roadway injuries to pedestrians and enable safer utilization of our parks and public facilities.

It is my hope that you will give this application full and fair consideration.

Thank you.

Tyson Manker, Mayor-Elect of South Jacksonville



301 Dewey Drive
South Jacksonville, IL
62650