Rick Van Wagner
City Manager

352-241-7358
Rvanwagner@clermontfl.org

March 10, 2026

The Honorable Daniel Webster
U.S. House of Representatives
2184 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Webster,

On behalf of the City of Clermont, I am pleased to express strong support for the funding request for the Hooks Street Extension project. The construction of Hooks Street between Hancock Road and County Road 455 will create a vital east–west reliever corridor that will significantly benefit residents, businesses, and visitors throughout the Clermont area.

State Road 50 currently experiences substantial congestion due to rapid population growth and expanding commercial activity in South Lake County. Extending Hooks Street will provide an important alternative route for local traffic, improving regional mobility while reducing congestion and travel delays along this heavily traveled corridor. This connection will also improve access between residential neighborhoods, schools, and commercial areas, making travel more efficient and reliable for our community.

The project is thoughtfully designed to enhance safety and accessibility for all users. Planned improvements include sidewalks, shared-use trails, landscaped streetscape elements, and modern roundabouts that will help calm traffic and improve overall traffic flow. Intersection improvements at Hancock Road and Hooks Street, as well as at County Road 455 and Hooks Street, will increase roadway capacity and reduce crash risks for motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists alike.

Beyond transportation improvements, the Hooks Street Extension will deliver meaningful public benefits, including improved traffic operations, enhanced safety for all modes of travel, support for continued economic development, increased property values, and an improved quality of life for residents and businesses throughout the Clermont community.

Lake County has also committed to providing continued maintenance of the new roadway, ensuring the long-term sustainability and functionality of this important infrastructure investment.

For these reasons, the City of Clermont strongly supports the funding request for the Hooks Street Extension project. This project represents a critical investment in the future of our community and the continued growth and prosperity of South Lake County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rick Van Wagner

Rick Van Wagner
City Manager
City of Clermont

LAKE COUNTY, FL
REAL FLORIDA · REAL CLOSE

Leslie Campione
County Commissioner, District 4

March 6, 2026

The Honorable Daniel Webster
U.S. House of Representatives
2184 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Webster,

I am writing to respectfully request your assistance in securing additional funding to advance critical infrastructure projects in Lake County. As you are aware, Lake County has experienced rapid population growth over the past several years, which has placed significant strain on our transportation network.

Constructing Hooks Street between Hancock Road and County Road 455 in Clermont will create an important east–west reliever corridor for State Road 50, which currently experiences significant congestion due to rapid population growth and increased commercial activity in South Lake County. The project will improve regional mobility by providing an alternative route for local traffic, reducing congestion and travel delays on SR 50 while enhancing emergency response access and connectivity between residential neighborhoods and commercial centers.

The project will include sidewalks, shared-use trails, landscaped streetscape elements, and modern roundabouts to improve safety and traffic flow. Intersection improvements are planned at Hancock Road and Hooks Street and at County Road 455 and Hooks Street to increase capacity and reduce crash risk. These multimodal and connection enhancements will improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists while supporting economic development and creating a more attractive, connected corridor for the Clermont community.

The use of taxpayer funds is justified because the project will deliver broad public benefits, including improved traffic operations, enhanced safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists, support for economic development, increased property values, and improved quality of life for residents and businesses throughout the Clermont area.

P.O. Box 7800 • 315 W. Main St., Suite 316 • Tavares, FL 32778-7800
P 352-343-9850 • F 352-343-9495

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the State to improve the quality of life for Lake County residents.

Sincerely,

Leslie Campione, Chairman
Lake County Board of County Commissioners

Cc: Board of County Commissioners {via email only}
County Manager {via email only}

Lake-Sumter MPO
Metropolitan Planning Organization

Lake County
Sumter County
Town of Astatula
City of Bushnell
City of Center Hill
City of Clermont
City of Coleman
City of Eustis
City of Fruitland Park
City of Groveland
Town of Howey-in-the-Hills
Town of Lady Lake
City of Leesburg
City of Mascotte
City of Minneola
Town of Montverde
City of Mount Dora
City of Tavares
City of Umatilla
City of Webster
City of Wildwood
Central Florida Expressway Authority
Florida Central Railroad
Lake County Schools
Sumter County Schools

Monday, March 9, 2026

The Honorable Daniel Webster

United States Congressman, 11th Congressional District

2184 Rayburn HOB

Washington, DC 20515

Lake County Hooks Street Extension and Improvement Project

Dear Congressman Webster

I am writing to extend my support for the Federal 2026 Surface Transportation Request submitted by the Lake County Board of County Commissions for the Hooks Street Extension and Improvement Project.

Constructing Hooks Street between Hancock Road and County Road 455 in Clermont will create an important east–west reliever corridor for State Road 50, which currently experiences significant congestion due to rapid population growth and increased commercial activity in South Lake County.

The project will improve regional mobility by providing an alternative route for local traffic, reducing congestion and travel delays on SR 50 while enhancing emergency response access and connectivity between residential neighborhoods and commercial centers.

The connection would enhance mobility for residents, businesses, and emergency services while improving access to nearby neighborhoods, schools, and commercial areas. By distributing traffic across multiple corridors, the project would help reduce travel delays, improve safety, and support continued economic growth in the Clermont area. In addition, the corridor could be designed to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists, creating a safer and more connected transportation network for the community.

The project will include sidewalks, shared-use trails, landscaped streetscape elements, and modern roundabouts to improve safety and traffic flow. Intersection improvements are planned at Hancock Road and Hooks Street and at County Road 455 and Hooks Street to increase capacity and reduce crash risk.

These multimodal enhancements will improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists while supporting economic development and creating a more attractive, connected corridor for the Clermont community.

By supporting this project, you are not only enhancing the operational capabilities of the South Lake County area but also promoting economic growth, reducing potential safety risks, and improving the overall quality of transportation services in the region.

I strongly endorse this request for this project and urge the US Department of Transportation Administration to provide the necessary funding to realize these critical infrastructure improvements.

Sincerely,

M Woods

Michael Woods, Executive Director

Lake~Sumter MPO