



January 28, 2025

Representative Sharice Davids  
Senator Jerry Moran  
Senator Roger Marshall  
VIA E-MAIL

Dear Representative Davids, Senator Moran, and Senator Marshall:

I am writing to you with respect to OMB Memo M-25-13, "Temporary Pause of Agency Grant, Loan, and Other Financial Assistance Programs," dated January 27, 2025. This halting of Congressionally-appropriated spending will negatively impact Kansans, including the Kansans I represent in Mission. I urge you to take all action possible to help preserve the Congressional "power of the purse."

This federal support to local governments (among others) is not a waste of taxpayer dollars and does in fact improve the day-to-day lives of the Kansans whom we both serve. Federal investments in our communities help to make our cities stronger. These dollars have already been allocated by Congress and cities like ours have been moving forward with critical projects relying upon the federal promise of these funds.

Although the full intent and impact of this federal funding "pause" is as of yet unknown, I wanted to write to you to illustrate one concrete example of the impact this could have on your constituents. I serve on the Transportation & Infrastructure Services Committee of the National League of Cities and am particularly interested in the "bread and butter" issues of local government, like ensuring that our critical infrastructure is functional. Accordingly, the example I will give is a major road project in our city.

Mission is a city of nearly 10,000 people with an annual budget of approximately \$30 million allocated across all funds. We are committed to infrastructure issues, and we spend nearly 35% of our general fund property tax revenues on street projects annually. Our residents strongly support our focus on infrastructure - in 2021, voters renewed a dedicated street sales tax by 77.15%.

These large infrastructure projects involve careful, advanced planning where we are often pulling together multiple funding sources - local, county, state, and/or federal, depending on the project. Leveraging these dollars is critical to our ability to deliver on resident needs like streets to ensure they are maintained in safe working order.

In 2026, we have been planning for a significant major road rehabilitation project of Johnson Drive from Lamar to Metcalf, a major arterial in our community. Coming from the west, Johnson Drive is the entry point into Mission from larger neighboring Overland Park and much of the Kansas City metro via US 69. It is the critical "downtown" corridor for our small, land-locked city. Johnson Drive moves an estimated 14,000 people into and through Mission everyday,

supporting our local businesses.

In 2023, we were awarded \$6.0 million in STBG funds for construction of this project, which includes critical stormwater repairs and full-depth reconstruction of this key roadway in our city. We are counting on pairing these funds with \$2.5 million in County Assistance Road System (CARS) dollars from Johnson County and \$3.5 million in city funds in order to make construction possible. Just this month, our Governing Body approved a contract to begin the appraisal and acquisition services required for the project – all in conformance with state and federal DOT guidelines. We have already committed more than \$800,000 for design of the project.

Our small city cannot cash flow construction projects of this magnitude, even when a large portion of the funding is to be reimbursed by county and federal dollars. Accordingly, we will have to enter the bond market by April of this year in order to fund the project. The OMB Memo has cast a cloud of uncertainty over this project, leaving us questioning when or how we might be able to move forward with this key investment directly benefitting residents, businesses, and visitors to Mission.

Again, I urge you to do all in your power to oppose impoundment of these, and other, vital Congressionally-designated funds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sollie Flora".

Mayor Sollie Flora  
Mission, Kansas