

June 15, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to convey my support for the City of Manchester, New Hampshire's application for a FY 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant for the South Millyard area of Manchester.

Our property at 50 South Willow Street, Manchester NH located at the intersection of Cilley Rd., Queen City Ave and Willow Street (major intersection where 5 roads meet) is immediately adjacent to the project area where transportation improvements are proposed by the City.

Knowing this, we are very supportive of the overall project and the City's application for the RAISE grant. For our own property, the project helps us to ease congestion and car accidents at this intersection, create a focal point where the Retail sector ends and Downtown Business section starts, a definitive fresh face to a neighborhood that is gentrifying and in a city that is under increased growth economically. We hope to see affordable housing for the community expand. The downtown business district has become one of the nation's largest tech startup companies and it's truly exciting to see so many positive changes happening including a rail trail expansion not far from this rotary project.

Overall, we believe the project is an innovative approach to invest in intermodal project that will reconnect a growing but historically detached part of our community. Specifically the project will help:

- Increase the flow of workers, residents, goods and services and mitigate existing extreme congestion by creating new connections to the existing street network and highway system at multiple points to/from South Millyard,
- Provide increased transportation choices and safety by improving pedestrian and bicycle connectivity, accessibility, comfort and safety,
- Creating a completely new multi-modal transportation corridor by repurposing the disused Boston & Maine rail bed
- Create the opportunity for the location and establishment of the Multi-Modal Transportation Hub in central location to serve travelers using multiple types of transportation to major attractions and land uses such as the new baseball stadium, educational institutions, resident commuters and future railroad connections.
- Create development opportunities for infill development of multi-use buildings including offices, manufacturing, housing and dynamic regional attractions
- Improve a major gateway intersection at Queen City Avenue/Cilley Road/South Willow Street

The RAISE grant will provide a transformative opportunity for investment in intermodal connectivity for the movement of people and goods at the center of Manchester, with positive effects rippling throughout the city and Central New Hampshire region. Over the past ten years the South Millyard has evolved from its historic use as an area of heavy industry with supporting rail corridors to an area of vibrant mixed uses including

educational institutions, multi-unit housing, restaurants, shopping, sports and entertainment, among other dynamic activities. However, this ongoing growth is now constrained by an outdated and disconnected transportation network.

Accordingly, I strongly support the application of the City of Manchester, NH for a FY 2021 RAISE grant. I request that you give all due attention to the application for this innovative project and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Denise D. Bernard, Managing Agent

CC: City of Manchester Department of Public Works