



May 19, 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 of an application being submitted by the City of Manchester, NH for a FY 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant for the South Millyard area of Manchester.

The Capital Regional Development Council is the regional development corporation that provides small business loans using SBA 504, USDA IRP, HUD CDBG and NH State Tax Credits to finance growing small businesses. Manchester is in our core lending territory. CRDC has injected more than \$10 million in loans financing a variety of growing Manchester businesses and real estate development projects including residential rental projects in the downtown in the past 10 years and access to suitable transportation assets is often discussed as companies determine if Manchester is a suitable location for private sector investment.

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 However, this ongoing growth is now constrained by an outdated and disconnected transportation network.

We believe the Manchester project provides an innovative approach to invest in intermodal project that will reweave the lost street and pedestrian connections to connect a growing but 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

Accordingly, the Capital Regional Development Council 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,

Stephen A. Heavener

Stephen Heavener, Executive Director
Capital Regional Development Council

CC: City of Manchester Department of Public Works