



GREATER
MANCHESTER
CHAMBER



May 26, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Greater Manchester Chamber, 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 Greater Manchester Chamber represents more than 700 businesses from across the Southern New Hampshire region of all sizes and across all industry sectors. While we are a regional organization, Manchester is the focal point of our regional economy and the Manchester Millyard specifically is a critical engine driving job growth and innovation for all of New Hampshire and Northern New England. Investing in key infrastructure that supports this area of the city will pave the way for additional economic growth and vitality that will benefit the community and 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 However, this ongoing growth is now constrained by an outdated and disconnected transportation network.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 proposed Manchester project provides an innovative approach to invest in an 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, 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Skelton", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael Skelton
President & CEO
Greater Manchester Chamber

CC: City of Manchester Department of Public Works