



June 14, 2021

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

SUBJECT: City of Manchester RAISE grant request

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We are writing in 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.

Manchester Connects is an all-volunteer civic organization whose mission is, as our name implies, to "connect people, places, and ideas in order to build a more vibrant Manchester." To this end, we are involved with planning and coordinating both short and long-term projects for creating and improving public spaces, since we believe that "great places don't just happen, they're made." Manchester has an enviable wealth of physical and cultural assets too numerous to describe in this letter, but certainly one of the most prominent is our iconic 19th century Millyard, which has become an important high-tech center and which has attracted a diverse and dynamic community of people. With its many other attributes, Manchester is poised to become an ideal place to live, work, and play in the 21st century.

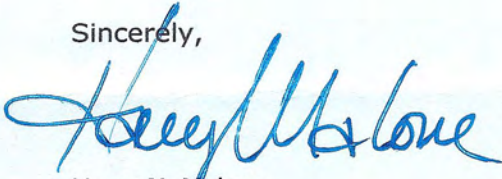
One of Manchester Connect's key initiatives is to improve intermodal transportation among the Millyard, our downtown, and nearby residential, business and cultural neighborhoods. However, our progress is impeded by an outdated and disconnected transportation network, designed for a last-century industrial setting, not the vibrant mixed-use environment into which Manchester has evolved, with its educational institutions, multi-unit housing, restaurants, shopping, sports and entertainment, and other dynamic activities.

We believe the Manchester project provides an innovative approach to invest in intermodal project that will reestablish lost street and pedestrian connections and recreate the vibrant cityscape to which we aspire. 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 a 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; and
- Improve a major gateway intersection at Queen City Avenue/Cilley Road/South Willow Street.

Accordingly, we strongly support the application of the City of Manchester, NH for a FY 2021 RAISE grant. Please give all due attention to the application for this innovative project. Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,



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CC: City of Manchester Department of Public Works