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## City of Manchester *Fire Department*

June 23, 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, NH's application for a FY 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant for the South Millyard area of Manchester.

At present, the City of Manchester Fire Department only has one access point for any emergency occurring on South Commercial Street. This location is home to Southern New Hampshire University, a large multistory parking garage, a hotel, Northeast Delta Dental Stadium, and a condominium complex. The high density along this street leads to severe traffic congestion preventing timely response to emergencies, and sometimes preventing access to larger apparatus. Additionally, South Commercial Street is the only river access for water rescue occurring south of the Amoskeag Dam. With only one access point to South Commercial Street coming from Granite Street, the city routinely sees significant traffic congestion in the South Millyard area due to the limited highway access points, and number of event venues found in this area.

This project request not only considered emergency response needs, but also physical needs for emergency response apparatus. All structures, roadway changes took into account turn radius, height and length factors for the largest city apparatus, including ladder trucks, engines, and the City's Incident Command Vehicle.

By funding this project, South Commercial Street would have access from both the northern and southern ends allowing for in/out flow of traffic to occur quickly allowing for emergency responders to quickly and safely respond to any emergency. Any traffic headed southbound would no longer have to travel north to Granite Street alleviating traffic concerns not only for singular events, but for the significant number of times there are multiple events happening at all downtown venues. The addition of multimodal transportation options and a pedestrian bridge will also help to alleviate congestion in the South Millyard area especially during high volume times, again allowing for expedient emergency access, preventing auto vs. pedestrian accidents, auto accidents and general traffic congestion for the Granite Street area.

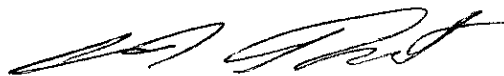
The RAISE grant will provide a transformative opportunity for investment in intermodal connectivity for the movement of people and goods at the center of Manchester, with positive effects rippling throughout the city and Central New Hampshire region. Over the past ten years the South Millyard has evolved 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, 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,



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CC: City of Manchester Department of Public Works