



, Chair
Alexandra Horton, Vice Chair
Michelle Lauder
Patrick Arnold
Dan Elliott

Mike Whitten, Executive Director

20-May-21

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am pleased to write this letter of 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 Milliard area of Manchester.

Our main vehicle storage and operations center is immediately adjacent to the project area where transportation improvements are proposed by the City. Additionally, MTA operates public transit throughout the city and the proposed infrastructure improvements will greatly enhance those efforts by connecting parts of the City currently segmented from transit access.

We are very supportive of the overall project and the City's application for the RAISE grant. We further believe that these improvements will aid our current efforts to better connect residents with transit throughout the City, an effort that includes a goal of constructing our first ever multi-modal transit center, another project that will benefit from these improvements in the network.

Overall, we believe the project is an innovative approach to invest in an 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 Milliard,
- Provide increased transportation choices and safety by improving pedestrian and bicycle connectivity, accessibility, comfort and safety, and connecting them with local transit routes
- 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.





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- 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. For example, one of MTA's strongest routes in the Green DASH; a circulator service connecting the Millyard with Elm Street. Because of the outdated road network, this transit route has to take a figure 8 loop with two deviations to serve the major destinations. This project would better connect these destinations, streamlining the service and allowing passengers to make the same trip in roughly half the time. This faster travel time is anticipated to boost ridership even further as it improves the convenience and accessibility of Transit in this area.

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,

Mike Whitten
Executive Director, MTA

CC: City of Manchester Department of Public Works

