

June 7, 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 Queen City Bicycle Collective's (QC Bike) support for the City of Manchester, New Hampshire's application for Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) funding.

QC Bike is a non-profit, community bike shop in Manchester with a mission to get, and keep, the Manchester community riding bicycles, safely and affordably. The majority of our customers rely on their bicycles for transportation to and from work, school, healthcare, shopping, and other essential services. Each year, approximately 70% of our transactions benefit Manchester's Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (NRSA). Through our work in the community, we can attest to the crucial role bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure plays in transportation equity. Using Complete Streets principles, this project has the opportunity to create critical connections and close missing links in our multi-modal transportation network.

We also recognize that adequate infrastructure is one of the most significant barriers to adults and youth *choosing* to use their bicycle as a mode of transport. The health, environmental, economic, and overall societal benefits of active transportation are well documented. Designing our streets to be safe and convenient for all users (by employing Complete Streets principles) is essential to encourage a needed shift towards more sustainable modes of transportation.

RAISE funding will prove a transformative investment in intermodal connectivity for the movement of people and goods at the center of Manchester, with positive effects rippling throughout the city and the entire Central New Hampshire region. Over the past ten years the South Millyard area has evolved from its historic use as an area dominated by heavy industry, with supporting rail corridors, to an area of vibrant mixed uses including educational institutions, multi-unit housing, restaurants, shopping, sports and entertainment, and other dynamic activities. However, this ongoing growth is set to be increasingly constrained by an outdated and disconnected transportation network.

We believe the Manchester project provides an innovative approach to invest in intermodal projects that will reweave the lost street and pedestrian connections to a growing but detached part of our community. Specifically the project will help:

- Increase the flow of workers, residents, goods and services, and mitigate 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 passenger 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

We are grateful for this opportunity to meaningfully impact the equitability and sustainability of transportation in our community and are privileged to play a role in increasing the options for **safe, affordable** biking throughout Manchester. As the infrastructure designs are developed and refined, we will remain committed to bringing forward the voices of those within our community who depend on their bicycles for transportation. Our priority is to ensure the project meets the needs of all non-motorized users, from inception to completion.

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,

Abby Easterly, Executive Director  
Queen City Bicycle Collective  
35 Elm Street  
Manchester, NH 03101  
[www.qcbike.org](http://www.qcbike.org)

CC: City of Manchester Department of Public Works