



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Representative Matthew B. Wilhelm
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July 9, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of my constituents and small business owners in downtown Manchester, I am writing to express my support for the FY 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant submitted by the City of Manchester, NH to increase connectivity in the South Millyard.

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 across the state. At one time, the Manchester Millyard was home to the largest textile manufacturing company in the world. Over the past decade, the South Millyard has evolved from 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 However, this ongoing growth is now constrained by an outdated and disconnected transportation network.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.

I've spoken with several business and community leaders who attended a design charrette to create a vision for Manchester's South Millyard/Downtown. Out of that collaborative community conversation, a vision was developed showcasing the incredible potential for creating positive impacts in the South Millyard area – including increasing the flow of workers, residents, goods and services, mitigating existing congestion issues, providing increased transportation choices, and creating opportunities for development of multi-use buildings.

Personally, I also have 'high hopes' for Manchester to join the smart sewer movement that has captured the imagination of civic-minded Americans in small cities across the country.

I strongly support the application of the City of Manchester, NH for a FY 2021 RAISE grant. I respectfully request that you give all due attention to the application for this innovative project. Thank you for your consideration and for your continued service to our country.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt Wilhelm".

State Rep. Matt Wilhelm

cc: City of Manchester Department of Public Works