

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1304

April 8, 2022

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 regarding the application submitted by the City of East Moline for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant for the Greater Downtown Revitalization Project.

This funding will connect East Moline's downtown district and two nearby brownfield redevelopment sites (The Rust Belt and The Bend). The City of East Moline has suffered economically since the early 1980's due to the decline in American manufacturing. Recently, the Bend and Rust Belt sites have been redeveloped to bring new life to this formerly industrial area. Railroad tracks and the lack of safe pedestrian infrastructure on 12th Avenue prevent easy access between these new developments, the City's Greater Downtown, and nearby homes. This project will connect these areas to enable the development of a vibrant business and entertainment district.

This funding will also create a regional, multi-modal oriented destination that will drive economic and community activity. Walkable streets throughout the Greater Downtown area will provide safe, accessible connections for local residents to travel by foot or via car, bus, train, boat, and bicycle to established commercial areas, nearby residential neighborhoods, the Mississippi River Trail, and the Riverfront. These improved transit and bicycle connections will give residents more travel options which will increase access to nearby jobs and services.

Please give full and fair consideration to the City of East Moline's application. Thank you for your attention to this matter and if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at my Rock Island office at (309) 786.5173.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator