



COMMITTEE ON  
WAYS AND MEANS

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

July 7, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing in support of the City of Bloomington, Illinois' application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program to fund improvements to the Hamilton Road East-West Gap project.

If rewarded funding, the City of Bloomington will be able to connect the final portion of a 7.2-mile east-west corridor that has been developed over the course of three decades, safely and efficiently connecting rural communities and the City's residents on the southwest side to jobs and various other businesses and services.

Additionally, the project will provide safer, easier roadway travel, especially at the U.S. 150, Rhodes Lane, and Norfolk Southern Railroad confluence with reduced traffic load on the Interstate 55 Business route (Veterans Parkway). Furthermore, the project will facilitate multi-modal travel by connecting the Constitution Trail multi-use path along the route and create the potential for more safe and efficient mass transit connections.

I appreciate your consideration and urge support for this application. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact myself or my office.

Sincerely,

Darin LaHood  
Member of Congress