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July 9, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I have been alerted that the **City of Charleston**, West Virginia, is submitting an application to the U.S. Department of Transportation under the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity, or **RAISE Discretionary Grant** program.

I write to offer my support for the City of Charleston, their partners, and this application. I understand that, if approved, funding provided by this opportunity would be utilized for further planning of the **Charleston Capital Connector Project**. The project is a joint partnership with the West Virginia Department of Transportation that would connect the economically distressed neighborhoods on the city's West Side, through downtown, and to the West Virginia capital complex. Additionally, the project would make critical upgrades to the Greenbrier Street gateway that is adjacent to the capital complex.

The Connector Project will transform 3.75 miles of overly wide, high-speed, unsafe roadway into complete streets that are highly efficient for vehicle travel, but also safe for all modes of travel including pedestrians, cyclists and public transit. Specifically, the project would expand sidewalks, crosswalks, pedestrian safety facilities, and create dedicated bike lanes, enhanced streetscaping, energy efficient lighting, wayfinding signage, and green infrastructure to manage stormwater runoff along the roadway. The project will also access the feasibility of a surface streetcar along Kanawha Boulevard.

I appreciate your noting my strong support and interest in this application and providing it a full and fair review. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I know how important continued investments in infrastructure are to building my state's capital city and our country back better, and how vital the RAISE program is for accomplishing that. Thank you in advance for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,



U.S. Senator Joe Manchin III