

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4805

January 11, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing in support of the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways' (WVDOH) application for federal funding through the Bridge Investment Program (BIP) for the Market Street Bridge.

Following my original submission of a letter of support, the Market Street Bridge underwent a routine safety inspection which it failed. This failure led to the decision by the West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT) to close the bridge to vehicular and pedestrian traffic on December 21, 2023. This raises the need for funding to a dire level, as the main route the Weirton, WV area and Steubenville area has been cut off causing numerous delays and frustrations throughout the area.

Approving this grant would allow the construction for the full replacement of a critical bridge along the Ohio River in Brooke County, West Virginia. This structure is a critical piece of infrastructure for the metropolitan area in and around Weirton, WV. This bridge will serve as the primary connection point for identified disadvantaged communities to gain access to medical facilities, food and jobs, while providing safe reliable infrastructure for active modes of transportation is imperative for the area.

West Virginia's best days are ahead of us, and every investment made in our state brings us closer to the shared goal of uplifting Mountaineers everywhere. I am proud to see the WVDOH directly investing in the future of our Northern Panhandle, and I remain a committed partner to our federal, state, and local entities working in West Virginia. I hope you will give this application your full consideration, as you consider recipients for this year's BIP program.

Sincerely,

Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator