

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4805

July 12, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write in regards to the City of Charleston's application for funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equality (RAISE) grant program. Funding would allow the City to upgrade major roadways in Charleston, West Virginia, and I am in support of their application.

Sadly, West Virginia has struggled with chronic poverty and unemployment, as well as crumbling infrastructure. In order to meet the needs of our fellow West Virginians, and to improve economic development and standards of living, the City of Charleston is making critical investments in infrastructure that will benefit blighted neighborhoods and put the City on the path towards economic recover.

Should funding be awarded, the City of Charleston would be able to implement their shovel-ready Charleston Capital Connector project. This project would upgrade Kanawha Boulevard East from the economically distressed neighborhoods on the West Side, through downtown and its job opportunities, through to the West Virginia capital complex, as well as upgrade Greenbrier Street at the capital complex. The Connector project will also create dedicated bike lanes on the two bridges, the South Side Bridge and the 35th Street Bridge, which frame this area of Charleston.

Sound infrastructure is critical to the economic development of West Virginia, and our capital city of Charleston. West Virginia's brightest days are ahead of us, and investments in our roads and communities will raise quality of life for our fellow Mountaineers. I am proud to see the City taking initiative in modernizing our infrastructure and ensuring it serves all West Virginians, and I hope you will give their application your full consideration.

Sincerely,



Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator