

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
COMMERCE
HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

September 28, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20509

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am pleased to support the City of Milwaukee's (City) application for Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Program funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation. Awarded funding would support the City's proposal titled Connecting North to South: a Complete 6th Street. This complete street will connect historic and diverse communities along the 6th Street corridor from North Avenue to National Avenue in Milwaukee, helping to address racial inequities in alignment with the Justice40 initiative, create safer streets for vulnerable users, and encourage climate-friendly forms of transportation.

Per the City, a Complete 6th Street will improve mobility and safety for multiple nearby communities which have been systemically burdened with a history of disinvestment and damage from the construction and expansion of freeways. Dedicated infrastructure for transit, cyclists, and pedestrians will safely link historic Black communities such as Bronzeville and Halyard Park in the north, Latino/a communities such as Walker's Point in the south, and the historic and industrious Menomonee Valley to jobs, public spaces, and the region's intermodal hub.

Additionally, this 2.6-mile capital construction project will further the City's *Connec+ing MKE: Downtown Plan 2040* and the recent long-range and strategic planning efforts of the communities along the corridor. The community-informed vision for the corridor proposes a Complete Street emphasizing safety, and will include bicycle, pedestrian, and transit amenities along with green infrastructure to improve mobility and quality of life for nearby residents. The strategies in the City's *2018 Anti-Displacement Plan for Neighborhoods Surrounding Downtown Milwaukee* will guide complementary development focusing on choice and equity.

The City's project has already had considerable planning, public engagement, and conceptual design and is ready to move forward. The City will build on these efforts by utilizing partnerships with community-based organizations to ensure local priorities are addressed. Additionally, the project does not require any real estate acquisition and the City has limited risks to implementing the project. Furthermore, the project's construction will help bring jobs to Milwaukee's neighborhoods through the City's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise and Residents Preference Program.

Finally, the project will build upon increased Complete Streets efforts around the City. Several successful and upcoming developments along the corridor such as the Deer District, the West National Avenue Replacement Project in Walker's Point, and the new Public Museum on 6th and McKinley Avenue show the catalytic investment in this important corridor.

I strongly support proposals that will equitably improve Wisconsin's transportation infrastructure, benefiting our economy and helping to increase opportunities for our residents and our communities at large. For this reason, I respectfully request that full and fair consideration be given to the City of Milwaukee's RCN application. Please keep my office updated on the progress of this application by email at projects_grants@baldwin.senate.gov. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tammy Baldwin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tammy" and last name "Baldwin" clearly distinguishable.

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator