

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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

March 8, 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 the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant program through the U.S. Department of Transportation. If awarded, funding will help the City to advance a Complete Streets vision for the Villard Avenue corridor, focusing on safety, connectivity, economic development, and equity.

The Villard Avenue Complete Street project builds on several planning and conceptual design efforts to create a safe and vibrant street, allowing residents and businesses enhanced bicycle and pedestrian access while reducing reckless driving. The corridor is part of Milwaukee's "high injury network" – city streets where the most dangerous pedestrian crashes occur. Both the City's 2010 Bicycle Master Plan and the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission's Vision 2050 plan propose bike lanes along Villard Avenue.

With awarded funding, the Villard Avenue Complete Street project would improve connectivity for multiple modes of transportation, particularly for people who live and work within the project area, those without access to an automobile, and persons with limited mobility. Residents biking will be able to ride on fully separated bikeways to connect to the 125-mile Oak Leaf Trail network and the regional route of the Badger trail network, located at the eastern end of the project. Additionally, per the City transit routes along and intersecting this corridor provide access to over 100,000 jobs. The City of Milwaukee has committed local match funding and has the technical experience needed to complete the project well before statutory deadlines.

I strongly support projects that improve the safety of our transportation infrastructure, invest in Wisconsin communities, and benefit our economy. For this reason, I respectfully request that full and fair consideration be given to the City of Milwaukee's RAISE 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,



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator