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UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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February 24, 2023

Pete Buttigieg, Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Lowell's Application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's RAISE Grant Program

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing with enthusiastic support of the City of Lowell's application to the U.S. Department of Transportation for funding through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program. This funding is instrumental for the City of Lowell in constructing a critical transportation project that has significant local and regional impacts to improve safety and provide equity.

Lowell's RAISE project is to repair and upgrade four City-owned bridges in Lowell that are in need of immediate attention. These bridges fall within Qualified Census Tracts and Areas of Persistent Poverty and provide connections between residential areas and community amenities including open space, places of employment, retail and commercial centers, and schools. The bridges are vital to creating economic growth and opportunities in underserved areas.

Recent inspection reports on these bridges show the need for repairs due to structural concerns that require interventions at all levels, including extensive rehabilitations or suggested replacements in some instances as the more efficient option. Currently, the bridges accommodate not only private and emergency vehicles, but also pedestrians, including high school and area college students. Several bus lines of the local transportation system use these bridges for their operation, and they provide links to our Lowell National Historic Park. These upgrades become paramount for the safety and accessibility for the City's residents, employees, and visitors and is precisely the type of project that should be considered for the RAISE Grant. This project will have a positive impact on the quality of life for residents, promote tourism, and spur regional connectivity for equal opportunities and economic competitiveness.

I support the City of Lowell's vision for its residents and its dedication to ensuring that people who live and work in Lowell can rely on the City's infrastructure for their day-to-day needs. I respectfully request that you give your utmost consideration when reviewing their application for funding from the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Grant Program. If you have any questions, please contact my District Director, Sara Khun Leng, at (978) 459-0101.

Sincerely,

Lori Trahan
Member of Congress (MA-03)