LORI TRAHAN
3RD DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
AND COMMERCE

CO-CHAIR, DEMOCRATIC
POLICY AND COMMUNICATIONS

DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND POLICY COMMITTEE

SENIOR WHIP



126 JOHN STREET, SUITE 12 LOWELL, MA 01852 (978) 459–0101

2439 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20515 (202) 225–3411

TRAHAN.HOUSE.GOV

June 10, 2024

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

RE: Fitchburg Application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's SS4A Grant Program

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the City of Fitchburg's application to the FY24 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Program. The SS4A Program has the potential to improve the safety of motorists and pedestrians in Fitchburg. As their federal representative, I ask that the City of Fitchburg's application be given all due consideration.

When I voted in favor of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, I did so because it was about more than just filling potholes and patching sewer pipes; it represented an unprecedented investment in the safety and wellbeing of our communities. Through the SS4A Program, DOT has created the funding mechanism necessary to execute this legislative agenda on the local level. Without the funding to conduct studies and analyze the results, it is difficult, particularly for smaller, more disadvantaged communities, to identify infrastructure problems and solutions. The Planning and Demonstration Grants offered through this program will put the necessary federal funding in the hands of the City of Fitchburg to support the development of a city-wide Action Plan. This means that local leaders will finally have the tools they need to identify the most impactful projects which will improve the safety of our communities. The impact of these tangible improvements cannot be overstated. If awarded, this grant funding will prevent pedestrian and motorist injuries and save lives in the Third Congressional District.

Perhaps the most exciting part about the SS4A Program model is that once the City of Fitchburg is able to put this initial funding towards their Action Plan, they will have the opportunity to apply for an Implementation Grant to complete the projects identified in their plan. Without this planning grant, Fitchburg will be unable to unlock the implementation funding they need to ensure the safety of its residents, whom I have the honor to represent. As such, I respectfully request that the City of Fitchburg's application to the SS4A Program receive full and fair DOT consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact Maria Syrniotis, my District Director, at (978) 459-0101 with any questions you may have. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Lori Trahan

Member of Congress (MA-03)

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