

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4805

February 22, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing in support of the City of Charleston's application for federal funding through the Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program for the Capital Connector project.

As the Ranking Member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, I am proud to have spearheaded bipartisan legislation that will directly invest in our nation's infrastructure needs. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will provide transformational support to our communities, and I am happy to see the positive effects this legislation is already having in West Virginia.

Should funding be awarded, the City of Charleston, in partnership with the West Virginia Department of Transportation, will continue the design phase and begin the construction phase on this project. The Capital Connector will prove enhanced safety, pedestrian and cyclist accessibility, transportation efficiency, and streetscapes along a key corridor that spans 3.5 miles along the north bank of the Kanawha River. This corridor is one of the critical routes in Charleston's transportation system, connecting the East End, Kanawha City, Downtown Charleston, South Hills, and the West Side. Charleston is West Virginia's vital hub for government, culture, commerce, and is a key economic center.

West Virginia's best days are ahead of us, and every investment made in our state brings us closer to the shared goal of uplifting Mountaineers everywhere. I am proud to see the City of Charleston directly investing in the future of West Virginia's capital city, and I remain a committed partner to our federal, state, and local entities working in West Virginia. I hope you will give this application your full consideration, as you consider recipients for this year's RAISE program.

Sincerely,



Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator