

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

March 3, 2023

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to express my support for the City of Kent's application for the Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant request.

The East Main Street Corridor Improvements Project is a collaborative effort between the City of Kent, Kent State University, and the Portage Area Regional Transit Authority, aimed at improving the safety and accessibility of the corridor for all users, including motorists, transit riders, pedestrians, and cyclists. With a significant multi-modal transformation, the project will strengthen the community of Kent and improve accessibility for adjacent neighborhoods, Kent State, and many food and retail destinations.

The proposed improvements to East Main Street are badly needed. The current infrastructure does not provide adequate accommodations for pedestrians, bicyclists, or transit riders, and contributes to the high collision rates on the corridor. The project will address these safety concerns by adding wider sidewalks with a tree lawn buffer, enhanced and more visible crosswalks, a shared-use path for bikes and pedestrians, two roundabouts, enhanced lighting, and new bus pull-offs.

While I do not agree with the Administration's racial and social "equity" approach in awarding Department of Transportation grants, I believe that the Reimagining the Gateway East Main Street Corridor Improvements Project is an investment in the future of Kent which will benefit the entire community.

I support the City of Kent's request and I encourage your strong consideration of their application. Please contact my office if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,



JD Vance  
Senator