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JEFF HALL
MAYOR

February 14, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I support the City of Heath, Ohio's application for Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant Program funds. These crucial dollars will be used for the Thornwood Drive Corridor project.

Our regions collaboration in this corridor will continue to positively impact economic development efforts within Licking County and Central Ohio. The improvements around Thornwood Drive and the new Thornwood Crossing interchange represent substantial infrastructure improvements needed to continue the economic development momentum experienced by the Cities of Newark and Heath over the last few years. Thornwood Corridor would establish an overdue north-south connection between SR16/37/161 and US 40 for truck and commercial traffic as well as serve the existing workforce within the adjacent industries. This project adds value to the transportation system that will allow for continued growth of Licking County's manufacturing sector and continue economic growth for several communities including Granville, Newark, Heath and Hebron. The need is both economic and safety driven.

The Thornwood Drive Corridor project is consistent with the importance of investing in more accessible infrastructure. The City of Newark supports Heath's application for funds for such a vital project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Hall".

Jeff Hall