

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 23, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write in support of the City of Heath's application for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. The City of Heath is a growing economic hub, located in Central Ohio. The growth in activity and investment in the region has created an immediate need for infrastructure improvements. In its current state, the Thornwood Drive Corridor is not equipped to handle the volume and type of vehicle traffic utilizing it.

The RAISE grant would allow the City of Heath to make crucial road improvements and safety upgrades to the Thornwood Drive Corridor, which serves as a vital route for countless businesses and individuals to access the cities of Heath, Granville, Newark, and Village of Hebron. Improvements to the Thornwood Drive Corridor will have an immense impact on the economic competitiveness of the region, connecting facilities like Intel and Boeing with their suppliers across the county. Hundreds of acres are zoned and ready for industrial growth, making the Thornwood Drive Corridor the largest manufacturing corridor in Central Ohio.

Additionally, the RAISE grant will allow the city to implement a multi-modal concept in the corridor. In conjunction with Licking County Transit, the City of Heath is conducting research to aid under-served areas get access to the thousands of manufacturing facilities through "park and ride" locations and increased public transit routes. This funding will impact the neighboring communities that are seeing rapid population and economic growth. These improvements will help attract businesses and development companies as they look to expand in Central Ohio, as well as support the existing businesses.

I strongly urge your full and fair consideration for the City of Heath's application for a FY 2023 RAISE grant. Please do not hesitate to contact my District Representative, Taylor Nemeth, at [Taylor.Nemeth@mail.house.gov](mailto:Taylor.Nemeth@mail.house.gov) should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Troy Balderson  
Member of Congress