

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 support the City of Columbus' application for the Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant to plan and design a multimodal freight corridor on Williams Road.

The Williams Road corridor handles a significant amount of freight due to multiple logistics centers and railyards towards its center and serves a significant amount of personal vehicles due to a myriad of residential communities along the corridor.

This proposal will develop a plan for the Williams Road corridor to support projected regional population and job growth by identifying how to separate two-at-grade rail crossings that are within 250 feet of each other and incorporate separated bicycle and pedestrian facilities into the corridor. The plan will also include all the corridor's intersections.

This project will bring the corridor up to modern standards for not just the freight and vehicles using the roadway, but also the pedestrians and bicyclists and provide multimodal options for individuals with limited transportation choices.

While I do not agree with the Administration's racial and social "equity" approach in awarding Department of Transportation grants, nor do I share the applicants' sentiments of emphasizing equity with regard to project development, the Williams Road corridor project will improve safety and transportation opportunities for the area and benefit all residents and businesses.

I believe the Williams Road corridor project will ensure that the region can continue to grow for the foreseeable future, and I encourage your strong consideration of the City of Columbus' application. Please contact my office if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,



JD Vance
Senator