

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 7, 2022

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

RE: Athens-Clarke County Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am pleased to write this letter encouraging the full and fair consideration of the application from the Athens-Clarke County, GA for 2022 RAISE discretionary grant funding in order to improve connectivity and provide a safe, sustainable, multi-modal transit infrastructure for residents on and around North Avenue. North Avenue is the main connection between communities north of State Route 10 and Downtown Athens. This project area is home to more than 5,000 residents, with over 50% of the population living at or below the poverty line.

These improvements provide the necessary infrastructure to support a truly multi-modal network that Athens-Clarke County aims to provide. The improvements for the bridge over the North Oconee River allow for better greenway trail access, improved bike and pedestrian access to Downtown Athens, and safer access for vehicles and larger trucks to cross the bridge into Downtown. Numerous intersection improvements will decrease the risk of collision with pedestrians or and will provide safe crossings and infrastructure for those who have limited access to vehicles, and it supports the Athens Transit system by providing a much needed last-mile connection to transit stops, job centers, and amenities along the corridor. It will also benefit the local neighborhoods with a safe connection to the North Oconee Greenway Trail and Firefly Trail.

I encourage your full and fair consideration of this application, consistent with all agency rules and regulations. If you have any questions, please contact Titus Cornell at (202) 224-3643 or titus_cornell@warnock.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Reverend Raphael Warnock
United States Senator