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Congress of the United States
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

June 17, 2021

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

RE: Letter of Support for Brickline Greenway in St. Louis for the
Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity [RAISE] Grant application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg;

On behalf of the First Congressional District of Missouri, I would like to express our support for Great Rivers Greenway's "Brickline Greenway: Fairground Park to Grand MetroLink Station" project and their 2021 RAISE Grant Program application. Funds from this grant will be used to build neighborhood-based multimodal infrastructure and community spaces as part of a broader, regional network of greenways and expand access to mass transit.

The Brickline Greenway will ultimately be a greenway network of up to 20 miles of accessible multi-use pathways where people can walk, run, bike, push a stroller or roll a wheelchair, connecting the city's vibrant neighborhoods, parks, business and arts districts, transit hubs, and myriad cultural and educational institutions while promoting equity, economic development, environmental leadership, active lifestyles and connectivity.

The first segment of Brickline Greenway opened to the public in 2018 in conjunction with the TIGER Grant-funded Cortex MetroLink Station. RAISE grant funding will enable Great Rivers Greenway to leverage local resources from public, private and institutional sources to accelerate development of the Brickline from the Grand MetroLink Station through North St. Louis to Fairground Park. This proposed alignment of the Brickline connects predominantly Black neighborhoods that have experienced generations of disinvestment, racial discrimination, poverty, poor public health and decreased quality of life. This connection will provide access to jobs and educational opportunities currently exacerbated by poor transportation infrastructure, transit dependency and isolation.

Great Rivers Greenway has a reputation for meaningful community engagement to design, build and manage high quality public facilities that are welcoming and representative of the neighborhoods where they are located. Working groups helped form strategies for diversity, equity and inclusion; universal design; and economic development, in addition to identifying specific opportunities and concerns of local residents. Since 2017 more than 250 individual stakeholder meetings have been held with local residents, institutions, elected officials, artists, government agencies and more.

Collectively, the various Brickline Greenway routes—to Fairground Park, the National GeoSpatial Agency, Forest Park, City Foundry, Saint Louis University, Harris-Stowe State University, Grand Center and the new Major League Soccer Stadium—will significantly expand access among surrounding neighborhoods and popular destinations, serving an ever-increasing share of St. Louisans who demand—and will benefit from—high quality, safe dedicated bicycle and pedestrian facilities, such as these.

Thank you for giving Great River Greenway's proposal the utmost consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cori Bush". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "C" and a long, sweeping underline.

CORI BUSH
Member of Congress