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July 7, 2021

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

RE: Support for West Florissant Avenue Great Streets 2021 RAISE Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to express my strong support for St. Louis County's 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant application for the West Florissant Avenue Great Streets Project in Ferguson and Dellwood, Missouri. Ferguson has suffered under years of disinvestment — and the RAISE Grant will support significant projects that can truly revitalize the area. The Department of Transportation has awarded RAISE grants on a competitive basis to capital improvement projects that will greatly improve safety, reduce bottlenecks and congestion, and have a significant local and regional impact. I feel the West Florissant Avenue Great Streets Project exemplifies the purpose of the RAISE grant program.

This is a defining moment for the West Florissant Avenue corridor. Years of disinvestment and economic decline have resulted in challenges of public health, safety, and economic justice in the community. The roadway is a risk not only to motorists, but to the many pedestrians and cyclists who travel the corridor as well. The lack of multimodal infrastructure is a problem of equity and accessibility. It truly restricts the mobility of those who need it most.

In response to these needs, the community has developed the West Florissant Avenue Great Streets Project, which is well-aligned with the RAISE grant program's goals and objectives. The project will improve safety, fund neglected transportation infrastructure improvements, attract new businesses through better movement of goods, services, and people, encourage redevelopment, and provide a foundation for innovation in traffic management and regional partnerships. But most importantly, these improvements represent a new beginning for the residents, workers, and businesses who call the corridor home. This project will improve community health and well-being and jump-start a new era of economic opportunity and job creation.

The West Florissant Great Streets Project will tie together recent and proposed developments along the corridor to create new opportunities for the North St. Louis County community. These developments include a new investment by the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, a Boys and Girls Club Teen Center, and proposed developments near Ferguson Avenue such as a healthcare facility and a bank. Further economic development along the corridor is dependent on improved transportation infrastructure to make it safe and accessible.

Our community looks to leverage this Great Streets Project to not only improve mobility and safety in the corridor, but also promote a sense of healthy civic pride through community revitalization. RAISE can help make this vision a reality.

I strongly recommend that the U.S. DOT select the West Florissant Great Streets Project for 2021 RAISE funding. This is an important and vital project that has local, regional, and national benefits.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cori Bush". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

CORI BUSH  
Member of Congress