

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 8, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We are pleased to support the City of Aberdeen, Maryland's application to the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) program for its Aberdeen Transit Oriented Development ("TOD") Station Square Improvement Project.

The City of Aberdeen is requesting \$800,000 and will provide a 20% match for a total of \$1,000,000 to complete planning to prepare an Environmental Site Assessment Phase II, design and engineering plans for erosion and sediment control, stormwater management, drainage, and ventilation, and to establish right-of-way needs for future improvements to connect pedestrians, commuters, and visitors.

Currently, the Aberdeen Train Station bisects the city, separating communities on the east and west sides of the rail line. To restore community connectivity, the proposed improvements would remove an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-noncompliant, 1,000-foot switchback pedestrian bridge and overpass built in 1982. The future improvements would support activity on Aberdeen's main street and within its designated TOD area by creating better pedestrian accessibility to transportation options.

We support Aberdeen's Station Square Improvement Project and urge you to give its proposal full and favorable consideration.

Sincerely,



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator