

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 19, 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 Maryland Department of Transportation's (MDOT) application to the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) program for its Enhancing Easton Neighborhood Access on US 50 project.

MDOT's application seeks a capital construction grant to add new sidewalks and raised landscaped medians, remove challenging crossing areas, and to install new pedestrian signals at MD 328 and 331 on US 50 from Dutchman's Lane to Lomax Street. By providing safer and more convenient pedestrian access to key locations, these improvements will also support Easton's comprehensive plan objective of greater mixed-use commercial and residential development along the corridor.

US 50, owned and maintained by MDOT, is a major highway connecting Maryland's Western and Eastern Shores and the primary highway to the Maryland and Delaware beaches. While serving these important functions for travelers, the highway has drawn economic activity and essential services away from Easton's historic town center located to the west of US 50. This project aims to mitigate this impact by improving the US 50 corridor in Easton so that it is accessible and useful not only to the travelers passing through the area, but also to the local community.

The proposed project has already received a Categorical Exclusion in its NEPA process and has advanced to final design. It is included in Maryland's 2022 State Transportation Improvement Plan as a Rural Safety and Spot Improvement.

We support the Maryland Department of Transportation's application for its Enhancing Easton Neighborhood project, and we urge you to give its proposal full consideration.

Sincerely,



Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator