

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 6, 2024

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 Baltimore City's application for funding for its *Revitalize Hanover Street: Bridging Futures, Transforming South Baltimore Neighborhoods Project* through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program. Its project will enable the City of Baltimore to complete necessary planning work for a once-in-a-generation undertaking that will remake the vital Hanover Street Corridor between Interstate 95 and the Baltimore City line with Anne Arundel County. This regionally significant, 2.4-mile corridor is the southern gateway into Baltimore City from Maryland Route 2 – the historic road between Baltimore and the State's capital in Annapolis. A key component of this corridor is the 108-year-old Vietnam Veterans Memorial Bridge, which is in dire need of rehabilitation or replacement.

The corridor study will be a critical step in determining feasible alternatives for the bridge and to undertake environmental planning and preliminary design. It will advance an established community-led vision for a better-connected and livable South Baltimore within a more equitable and inclusive built environment. This planning study will implement a Complete Streets approach to accommodate all modes of travel, adding pedestrian-focused crossings that will connect neighborhoods with waterfront parks, trails, and new resilient "living" shorelines; adding shared use paths or dedicated bike lanes; improving sidewalks; improving vehicular and pedestrian safety; and connecting people to transit.

Areas of Baltimore that stand to benefit from this project include environmental justice communities that have been cut off from one another and the region for generations by transportation and industrial land use limitations, as well as port-related businesses that are essential to the regional economy.

We strongly support the City of Baltimore's *Revitalize Hanover Street: Bridging Futures, Transforming South Baltimore Neighborhoods Project* proposal, and we urge your full and favorable consideration of its application.

Sincerely,



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



C. A. Dutch Ruppertsberger
Member of Congress



John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



David J. Trone
Member of Congress