

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 23, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We write to express our support for the Maryland Transportation Authority's (MDTA) Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MDPG) application for the I-895 Baltimore Harbor Tunnel: Enhance Mobility, Improve Safety and Reduce Emissions (Baltimore Harbor) project.

The Baltimore Harbor project will upgrade a critical junction in the Baltimore area's Interstate system and provide greater freight connectivity to the Port of Baltimore, improve safety for personal and freight vehicles utilizing the Baltimore Harbor Tunnel, and reduce vehicle idling and greenhouse gas emissions. The project will modernize 1.1 miles of assets, including the replacement of the toll plaza near the Baltimore Harbor Tunnel with an overhead gantry for electronic toll collection, the enhancement of rail safety measures at the Shell Road at-grade CSX crossing, and the redesign of the Frankfurst Avenue bridge to safely accommodate freight vehicles. MDTA has advised us that the project enjoys strong support from the freight and logistics community in Baltimore.

The Baltimore Harbor project is adjacent to two U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) defined Transportation Disadvantaged Communities that experience significant environmental, air quality, and transportation safety and access burdens. The project will create vehicular emission reductions in these areas and roadway safety improvements at Frankfurst Avenue, Shell Road, and Childs Street, which will enhance community access to transportation and reduce fast-travelling traffic in the area.

The MDTA has committed \$80 million in matching funds for this project, received a Categorical Exemption (CE) during its National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review, and has already begun to proactively engage with industry partners including Disadvantaged Business Enterprises and Minority Business Enterprises. This project aligns with USDOT's strategic goals, and if awarded funding, would be able to move more swiftly toward final design and construction.

We strongly support the MDTA's efforts on transportation connectivity, safety, and environmental quality, and request your full consideration of this application.

Sincerely,



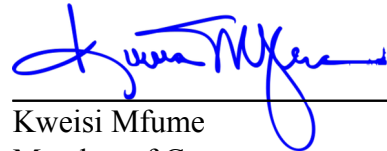
Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress



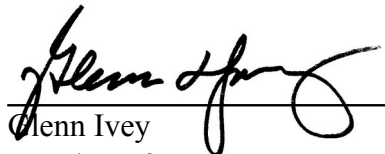
Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



David J. Trone
Member of Congress



Glenn Ivey
Member of Congress