

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

July 9, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We write to offer our full support for the Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Administration's (MDOT MTA) application for Rebuilding American Infrastructure for Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant funding for the *East-West Priority Corridor Project*. This critical urban project aligns strongly with the primary selection criteria providing significant safety, state of good repair, economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability, and quality of life benefits to the Baltimore region.

This corridor was identified in the Central Maryland Regional Transit Plan (CMRTP) as one of the highest priority Early Opportunity corridors in the region. The East-West Corridor is unique for the great number of employment centers it connects with high-frequency transit in Baltimore City and Baltimore County, including the Social Security Administration, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the University of Maryland Medical Center, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Johns Hopkins Bayview, and the central business district of downtown Baltimore. The corridor also connects multiple residential communities, hosts two of the region's top five bus routes in terms of ridership, and provides a direct connection to the MARC regional commuter train that travels seven days a week to Washington, DC.

The proposed East-West Priority Corridor Project supports the implementation of the CMRTP by cohesively improving transportation and economic opportunities for the Baltimore region, connecting both residential communities and regional job centers. The dedicated bus lanes and transit signal priority included in the project will improve the speed and reliability of transit service. The pedestrian safety improvements, ADA access investments, shelters, lighting, real-time transit information, and bicycle facilities will address existing safety issues and improve the rider experience on the network.

We urge your full, favorable consideration of this proposal to invest in a critical effort to improve multi-modal access and safety in this important transit corridor in the Baltimore region.

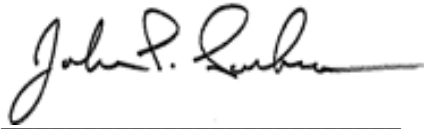
Sincerely,



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress



David Trone
Member of Congress