

April 19, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We write to express our full support for the Prince George's County Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission's (M-NCPPC) application to enhance our region-wide trail network through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant Program.

The projects in this application will link trail systems in Maryland and the District of Columbia. Taken together, these multi-use trail projects will move the region closer to completing the ambitious Capital Trails Network, which was recently endorsed by the Transportation Planning Board and The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) as the regional trail vision.

This proposed package of nonmotorized transportation trail network improvements will include seven miles of new construction, eight miles of trail rehabilitation, and safety improvements at nine intersections and at-grade crossings. There will be four new trail connections to Metrorail stations and three future light rail stations; in total, the project will be within a half-mile of nine rail stations. The projects will close gaps, rehabilitate and upgrade sub-standard facilities, increase carrying capacity, enhance safety, improve access for people with physical disabilities, and expand access to the Capital Trails Network for underserved communities.

Once this project is finished, the 28-mile Anacostia River Trail system will be complete and there will be a link between the 18-mile Metropolitan Branch Trail/Capital Crescent Trail loop with the 35-mile Anacostia Tributary Trail System, completing the bicycle and pedestrian trail transportation network inside the beltway in the northeast quadrant of DC and its inner-ring suburbs.

These connections will allow residents to travel by bicycle, foot, and other nonmotorized means, easily and safely. This project will also connect neighborhoods to multiple public rail and bus transit lines, employment centers, schools, colleges and universities, grocery stores and retail centers, health care facilities, and recreational opportunities.

We request your favorable consideration of the M-NCPPC's proposal, which promises to benefit millions in the region.

Sincerely,

Calvin S. Hawkins, II
Chair