

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

February 23, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: MLK Boulevard/South Little Creek Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Connector, Delaware Application for Construction Funding through the RAISE Grant Program

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We write to express our support for the Delaware Department of Transportation's (DelDOT) application for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program for the construction of the MLK Boulevard/South Little Creek Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Connector within the City of Dover in Delaware.

This shared-use path project is ranked 4th in the 2020 City of Dover Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan helped developed by the Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization. Once complete, it will provide a primary east-west bicycle and pedestrian route connecting central Dover to the residential and commercial areas on the eastern limits of the city.

This project represents Delaware's commitment to promote sustainable and active modes of transportation throughout the state. The significance of this connector lies not only in its potential to enhance transportation options but also in its positive impact on public health, air quality, and community well-being. Providing safe and accessible routes for cyclists and pedestrians reduces vehicular congestion and encourages physical activity, thereby addressing key health concerns associated with sedentary lifestyles.

By facilitating convenient and safe access for cyclists and pedestrians, we encourage residents to engage with their surroundings and create more vibrant and interconnected communities. We strongly believe that the successful implementation of this project is a crucial step towards creating more livable and resilient outdoor spaces.

We appreciate your time and consideration of this proposal and ask that you contact us once a decision is rendered. Should you have any questions, we can be reached through our respective staff members John Gentile in Senator Carper's office at (302) 573-6291, Andrew Dinsmore in Senator Coons' office at (302) 573-6345, and Iris Turner in Congresswoman Blunt Rochester's office at (302) 830-2330.

Sincerely,



Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress

City of



Dover

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

February 26, 2024

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

RE: Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As Mayor of the City of Dover, I write this letter requesting your support for a project that is very important to the residents of Dover. The Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) is applying to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program for the construction of the MLK Boulevard/South Little Creek Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Connector.

In 2020, the Dover City Council reaffirmed its commitment to creating a more pedestrian and bicycle friendly city when it adopted the Dover Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. This plan was developed for the City of Dover at the direction of the Dover Kent County MPO. The plan ranked the MLK Boulevard/South Little Creek Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Connector as #4 priority. Once complete, it will become a primary east-west bicycle and pedestrian route connecting central Dover to the residential and commercial areas situated east of US 13.

It is important to make walking and cycling safe in Dover, but it is even more important as an example of how we can improve cities and towns in Delaware so that they are better places to build stronger communities. City of Dover continues to be a leader in that effort.

I greatly appreciate your consideration of this request and application for the MLK Boulevard/South Little Creek Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Connector. Please feel free to contact me at 302.736.7005 if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robin R. Christiansen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Robin R. Christiansen
Mayor, City of Dover



*Bike Delaware advocates for safe,
convenient and fun cycling and walking
for everyone*

February 22, 2024

Chris Castagno
President

Louis G. Hering
Vice President

John Bare
Treasurer

Robert McCleary
Secretary

Marci Drees

John Hollis

Collin O'Mara

James Wilson,
Executive Director

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

"We too often think about roadway deaths as if they are normal, part of life in our times - almost as if we were living through a war."

"[W]e have been bathed in this level of carnage all our lives. And so we're a bit like people who grow up in a place that's experiencing a war, in terms of how normal we think that is."

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

When Evalene Pyle was killed trying to cross US13 on a bicycle in Dover in 2022, there were no memorials or vigils and barely any news coverage beyond a perfunctory repetition of the police report. Her death was barely remarkable. As in most places in the United States, deaths caused by crashes are regarded by many (most?) Americans as inevitable.

You know they are not. You know that Americans suffer not just 10% or 20% or 30% more traffic fatalities per capita than our advanced country peers but, rather, 300% more (compared to France or Germany) or even 500% more (compared to Norway). The horrifying system we have built - painstakingly and at staggering cost over decades - continues to kill our friends and families every year at a rate which should be a first-order political crisis on our country (but isn't). Not even the fact that crashes are the #2 leading cause of children both in Delaware (like President

Biden's infant daughter) and the U.S has - so far - failed to move traffic safety to the top of the U.S. political agenda.

But even though you are not compelled to act by political clamor, you can nevertheless *choose* to act and - with the RAISE program - you have been given greater scope to act than previous USDOT secretaries. We ask you to consider the relative merits of a RAISE grant application from the Delaware Department of Transportation to fund the construction of the MLK Boulevard/ South Little Creek Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Connector, which is specifically scoped to prevent future tragedies like Evalene Pyle.

Safe infrastructure for cycling serves the needs of people of every socioeconomic background. When we build good cycling infrastructure, more people choose to use a bike. Recent data from both Streetlight Data and the Census Bureau that show cycling growing faster in Delaware since 2019 than almost anyplace else (**#3** after only New York and New Jersey in StreetLight's report and **#2** after only Rhode Island in the Census Bureau's data) backs that up. So your support for this project will mean more people choosing to make trips using a bicycle in Dover. But that perspective understates the urgency of this specific project because of the high level of poverty in the area. Of the 1,400 households that would be directly served by this project, 99% are located in a Historically Disadvantaged Census Tract and 28% and 79% are classed as being in an Area of Persistent Poverty and/or a DelDOT Equity Focus Area, respectively. In my 13 years at Bike Delaware, I cannot recall another bike/ped project located so specifically in an area whose socioeconomic characteristics are so correlated with a higher percentage of people - like Evalene Pyle - who do not have access to a car for transportation and whose need for safe alternative infrastructure is, literally, a matter of life or death.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Wilson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Wilson".

James Wilson
Executive Director | Bike Delaware
james@bikede.org



DOVER INTERFAITH MISSION FOR HOUSING

PO Box 1148, Dover DE 19903
(302) 736-3600

630 W. Division Street, Dover DE 19904
interfaithdover@verizon.net

February 22, 2024

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

RE: MLK Boulevard/South Little Creek Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Connector

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

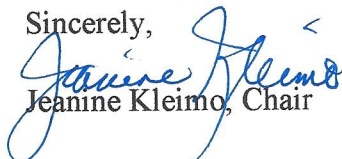
This letter is to express our strong support for the Delaware Department of Transportation's (DelDOT) application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program. We wholeheartedly endorse the initiative to install bicycle and pedestrian improvements on portions of MLK Boulevard, South Little Creek Road, and their intersections with US13 and Bay Road.

We understand that this is one of the priority projects identified by the 2020 City of Dover Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan developed by the Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization. Once completed, this project will establish a primary east-west bicycle and pedestrian route, seamlessly connecting central Dover to the residential and commercial areas on the eastern portion of the city. Our organization serves adults who are homeless or who have very low incomes. Many use bicycles for local transportation, and we facilitate access to donated and renovated bicycles for our clientele.

The current absence of a direct and secure route in the area poses significant challenges for safe travel for individuals seeking access to jobs, shopping, family, friends, and community resources. Individuals without access to automobiles are particularly burdened by hazardous unsignalized crossings of arterials roads such as US13 and Bay Road.

For the safety, health, environmental, and equitable benefits of this project, we strongly support its consideration for the RAISE grant. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Jeanine Kleimo, Chair



POB 383 / Dover, DE 19903 / <http://www.doverkentmpo.org> / 302.387.6030 FAX: 302.387.6032

February 23, 2024

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

RE: Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Dover Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is issuing this letter in support of the grant application submitted by the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program. This grant application is for construction of the MLK Boulevard/South Little Creek Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Connector within the City of Dover, Delaware.

This shared-use path project is ranked 4th in the 2020 City of Dover Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, which was developed for the City of Dover under the direction of Dover Kent County MPO. Once complete, this project will provide a primary east-west bicycle and pedestrian route connecting central Dover to the residential and commercial areas on the eastern limits of the city.

The project will include the installation of approximately 1.2 miles of 10-foot-wide shared use path with a 3-foot buffer, from its eastern terminus on the north side of South Little Creek Road where it intersects Horsepond Road. The path will be separated from automobiles throughout the stretch of South Little Creek Road until it reaches Bay Road and then US13 where it will turn into an on-street configuration. Crosswalks and bicycle and pedestrian refuge islands will be installed at the intersections of Bay Road, US13, South Little Creek Road and MLK Boulevard to safe crossing. The path will then connect to an existing pathway on the southern side of MLK Boulevard. This existing pathway is part of the Capital City Trail and other bicycle and pedestrian trail networks that connect to various places within the City of Dover including government buildings, parks, transit center, schools, etc.

For the project's exceptional benefits including health, environmental, economic and community connections, we extend our sincere support for this project and request your positive consideration.

Sincerely,

Marilyn J. Smith
Executive Director



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

February 26, 2024

RE: Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Grant Program

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

This letter is to express our strong support for the Delaware Department of Transportation's (DelDOT) application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program to fund the construction of the MLK Boulevard/South Little Creek Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Connector. We wholeheartedly endorse the initiative to install bicycle and pedestrian improvements on portions of MLK Boulevard, South Little Creek Road, and their intersections with US13 and Bay Road.

We understand that this is one of the priority projects identified by the 2020 City of Dover Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan developed by the Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization. Once completed, this project will establish a primary east-west bicycle and pedestrian route, seamlessly connecting central Dover to the residential and commercial areas on the eastern portion of the city.

We also understand that this project will connect to the Capital City Trail Network which is a series of ADA accessible shared use pathways and low stress, on-road bikeways that circumnavigate the City of Dover and the nearby towns of Camden and Wyoming.

The current absence of a direct and secure bicycle and pedestrian route in between MLK Boulevard, US13, Bay Road and South Little Creek Road poses significant challenges for safe travel for individuals seeking access to jobs, shopping, family, friends, and community resources. For the safety, health, environmental, and equitable benefits of this project, we strongly support its consideration for the RAISE grant.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide support for Delaware Department of Transportation's (DelDOT) application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Linda Parkowski'.

Linda Parkowski
Executive Director



STATE OF DELAWARE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

TATNALL BUILDING, SECOND FLOOR
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BOULEVARD SOUTH
DOVER, DELAWARE 19901

JOHN CARNEY
GOVERNOR

PHONE (302) 744-4101
FAX (302) 739-2775

February 22, 2024

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

RE: Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

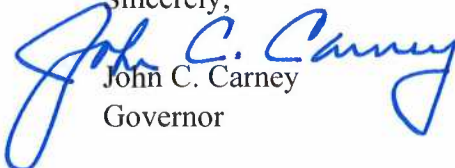
I am writing to express my strong support of the Delaware Department of Transportation's (DelDOT) application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program for the construction of the MLK Boulevard/South Little Creek Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Connector within the City of Dover in Delaware.

As outlined in the 2020 City of Dover Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, the MLK Boulevard/South Little Creek Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Connector is ranked 4th in the City of Dover's list of bicycle and pedestrian projects. Once complete, it will become a primary east-west bicycle and pedestrian route connecting central Dover to the residential and commercial areas situated east of US 13.

This project represents Delaware's steadfast commitment to fostering sustainable and active transportation modes across the state. Beyond its function as a transportation link, the significance of this connector extends to its positive impact on public health, environment, and overall community well-being. Establishing safe and accessible routes for cyclists and pedestrians alleviates vehicular congestion, encourages physical activity, and promotes vibrant communities.

I extend my sincere appreciation for your diligent consideration of this grant application. Thank you for helping advance sustainable and equitable infrastructure projects that enhance the quality of life for all Delawareans.

Sincerely,


John C. Carney
Governor