

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 19, 2023

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 the Town of Berlin, Maryland's application to the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods program for its Bridging the Highway that Divides Berlin: Reconnecting Neighborhoods Split by US-113 project.

Berlin is an economically disadvantaged town located in Worcester County on the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland. Route 113 has divided Berlin with limited access and opportunity, resulting in damage to the health, safety, and well-being of its residents.

Funds will be used to support planning and design for a bicycle and pedestrian bridge over US Route 113, remedying long-standing lack of safe access to schools, shopping, health and medical services, as well as providing business opportunities for Berlin's residents, many of whom live in income-based housing. Project activities include facilitating community engagement, developing concept drawings, a feasibility study, and preliminary engineering for a bridge over Route 113. The project will identify necessary sidewalk and crossing improvements in the area and potential connections to existing and proposed bike and pedestrian facilities in the Worcester County Greenways and Trails Plan, many of which are already in development.

We support Berlin's Bridging the Highway that Divides proposal for planning a bicycle and pedestrian bridge over US Route 113, and we urge you to give this application your full consideration.

Sincerely,



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator