

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 20, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We write to express our support for three Prince George's County government applications to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program.

Prince George's County is home to almost 912,000 residents and is one of the most diverse counties in the country. Located on the outskirts of the District of Columbia, Prince George's County has both a large African American and Hispanic population. 62 percent of Prince George's County residents are African American, and 21 percent identify as Hispanic or Latinx. Comparatively, only 30 percent of Maryland residents are African American, and only 11 percent are Hispanic or Latinx. Areas of concentrated poverty and high need tend to occur in the inner beltway region, with six percent of the families in the County living under the poverty line. Prince George's County also possesses the second highest number of Opportunity Zones created under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017.

The County's demographic and economic profiles are well positioned to benefit from the sustainability and equity objectives of the RAISE grant program. Moreover, the three projects for which Prince George's seeks support demonstrate innovation and environmental sustainability that will have far-reaching impacts for the County and region.

“Proud to Charge” Transportation Sustainability Initiative

The Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation seeks \$24.9 million in federal funding for the “Proud to Charge” transportation sustainability initiative to purchase 30 new zero- or low-emission buses to replace diesel buses that have exceeded useful life, implement a regenerative energy storage system, upgrade electrical infrastructure, and build partnerships to host workforce development training programs to support the execution of the County bus electrification initiative.

The overall cost of transitioning from diesel to a zero-emission fleet is estimated at \$84.9 million, including costs to replace vehicles, retrofit facilities, and install charging infrastructure. The Prince George's County “Proud to Charge” program will advance the ongoing execution of

the zero-emissions bus program and accelerate the County's goal to reach a 70 percent electric bus fleet by 2035. The "Proud to Charge" program will enhance access to transit, connect residents to good paying jobs, improve sustainable energy programs, reduce air pollution, decrease health disparities in low-income communities, and prepare County residents to enter the high-tech workforce in transportation.

Tantallon Community Flood Mitigation and Stormwater Management Project

The Prince George's County Department of Environment seeks \$5.2 million in federal funding for the Tantallon Community Flood Mitigation and Stormwater Management project to improve stormwater management facilities. The federal funds would help reduce the impacts of flooding on the Tantallon community's transportation network, alleviate safety concerns, and enhance community connectivity and livability.

The Tantallon Community of Fort Washington is an urbanized area with approximately 514 households and a population of 1,478 residents. For many years, the community has experienced ongoing drainage and flooding issues. The County formed the Tantallon Infrastructure & Flood Mitigation Workgroup in 2021 to improve infrastructure and reduce flood risk. Census data indicate the community is 80 percent African American and home to a substantial percentage of fixed-income retirees. The proposed project includes the design and future construction of nine stormwater management ponds and restoration of approximately 4,000 feet of stream channel.

This project aims to deliver multiple benefits to the community, augmenting neighborhood infrastructure, reducing flooding issues, and improving the health of residents and ecosystems. These advancements in Tantallon's stormwater management systems will directly benefit the resilience of the transportation infrastructure while improving water quality and equity. Funding through the RAISE program would help ensure the project delivery coincides with other planned improvements.

New Carrollton Multi-Modal Transportation Station Project

Prince George's County seeks \$25 million in federal funds for the New Carrollton Multi-Modal Transportation Station project to improve connections between all modes that access and serve this station and invest in comfortable pedestrian and bicycling access to transit. Coupled with amenities such as real-time transit information and a community plaza, these investments support the station's role as an intermodal hub for the Greater Washington region and beyond. Service providers at the station currently include Amtrak, MARC, Metro, Greyhound, TheBus, and, by 2026 will also include Maryland's new Purple Line light-rail and the Next Generation Acela Express.

This \$47 million project amplifies the major investment in this transit-oriented, mixed-use development and catalyzes economic activity and opportunity both around New Carrollton and for the region. Furthermore, the project invests in a historically disadvantaged community, while also providing increased transportation choices that will benefit the environment by reducing emissions.

All three of these projects demonstrate efforts to improve equality and reduce barriers to opportunities. Your full consideration of all three Prince George's County RAISE Grant

Applications is greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for your time and attention to this matter.

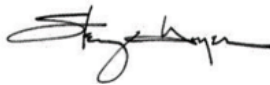
Sincerely,



Benjamin L. Cardin
U.S. Senator



Chris Van Hollen
U.S. Senator



Steny H. Hoyer
Member of Congress



Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress