

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 6, 2024

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 City of Aberdeen, Maryland's application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity ("RAISE") grant program for its Transit Oriented Development ("TOD") Station Square Project.

The City of Aberdeen is requesting \$800,000 and will provide a 20 percent match for a total of \$1,000,000. The planning grant will be utilized for engineering and design plans, an environmental feasibility study, and to establish right-of-way needs for future improvements to create accessibility and connectivity to multimodal transportation services for the entire community.

Currently, the Aberdeen Train Station is not accessible to people with disabilities. The Station is primarily accessed through an Americans with Disability Act ("ADA") noncompliant tunnel with stairways. The other means of access is through an ADA noncompliant 1,100-foot switchback pedestrian overpass, which was constructed in 1982. Additionally, the Aberdeen Train Station bisects the city, separating communities on the east and west sides of the rail line.

To restore community connectivity and public transit access for all, the proposed improvements would remove the ADA noncompliant switchback pedestrian bridge and support the construction of a new accessible pedestrian underpass with a landscaped terraced plaza that includes seating and ADA accessible walkways. Other project components include rail and platform improvements, and pedestrian safety improvements.

We support Aberdeen's TOD Station Square Project and urge you to give its proposal full and favorable consideration.

Sincerely,



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator