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February 7, 2024

Pete Buttigieg
United States Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write in strong support for McLean County's Fiscal Year 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant application for the Historic Route 66 Bike/Pedestrian Trail.

Planning for the Historic Route 66 Bike/Pedestrian Trail began in 1999 and the first phase was constructed in 2009 with the help of an America Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Grant. Since then, investment by local, regional, state, and federal partners has resulted in construction of approximately 29 miles of the 44-mile trail and another 6 miles which is scheduled to be completed in 2025-2026.

The remaining 9 miles require design, engineering, and construction work to safely separate users from traffic and a high-speed rail line. McLean County's RAISE Grant application, totaling \$15,070,000, would allow the County and its municipal partners to complete the regional Historic Route 66 Bike/Pedestrian Trail as a major transportation and recreational facility. The trail provides active transportation infrastructure re-connecting six communities to jobs, commerce, parks/open space, and rail transportation, as well as multiple tourism attractions along Historic Route 66. The separated path serves users of all ages and abilities, providing affordable transportation alternatives including those utilizing micro-mobility and type 1-2-3 electric bicycles.

The Historic Route 66 Bike/Pedestrian Trail is part of both the McLean County Regional Greenways/Trails Plan and Illinois' Route 66 Trail Concept Plan. The non-motorized, paved trail runs adjacent to the Route 66 utilizing abandoned lanes where available and can eventually connect to existing and future the Route 66 State Trail segments in other jurisdictions, between Chicago to St. Louis.

I urge strong consideration of McLean County's RAISE Grant application.

Sincerely,



Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress