

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 22nd, 2024

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

**RE: Central Naugatuck Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (CNVMPO)
Naugatuck River Greenway Design Application for the Rebuilding American
Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Funding Program**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We write in strong support of the application submitted by Connecticut's Central Naugatuck Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (CNVMPO) to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program. The CNVMPO is requesting approximately \$5.1 million to complete planning and design for a significant portion of the Naugatuck River Greenway Trail (NRB) that would connect central business districts and provide a necessary transportation corridor in the Naugatuck Valley Region.

The Naugatuck River Greenway, designated by the CT Greenways Council, will reconnect the formerly industrial Naugatuck Valley back to its river. Significant investment has been made by Connecticut Department of Energy and Protection (DEEP), local communities and stakeholders to improve the quality of the river and restore the habitat along its length. Providing access to the river will serve as an economic driver as well as a safe, accessible active transportation corridor.

The proposed funds will be used to complete final design, environmental review, and preparation of construction documentation of a roughly 6-mile section between the northern point of downtown Thomaston to the southerly point of downtown Naugatuck, connecting through downtown Waterbury and Watertown. When constructed, the trail will provide a direct connection between these vital economic centers within the MPO while also providing access to the river for historically underserved communities.

Through this project, CNVMPO will be better positioned to foster connectivity in the region. Compared to other municipalities, residents of Waterbury have less access to vehicles thereby necessitating other modes of transportation including transit and active transportation. Similarly, transit-oriented development taking place throughout the four communities in the project area will generate new, car-light or car-free households that will benefit from a fully

separated trail providing access to key services and institutions across the region. If awarded, RAISE funding will aid revitalization in this economically distressed area of the Naugatuck Valley.

Therefore, we urge your full and fair consideration of the CNVMO's application to the RAISE grant program.

Sincerely,



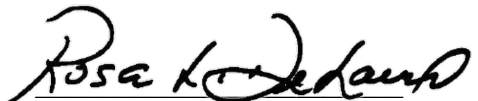
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United States Senate



CHRIS MURPHY
United States Senate



JAHANA HAYES
Member of Congress



ROSA DELAURO
Member of Congress