

June 9, 2021

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

Re: Letter of Support for the 2021 RAISE Discretionary Grant: La Crosse County French Island Freight and Mobility Improvements

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing this letter to express our support for La Crosse County, WI request for 2021 DOT RAISE Discretionary grant to improve freight, safety and mobility access on French Island, WI.

The 2021 RAISE grant will provide La Crosse County with the ability to reconstruct the existing roadway system with alternatives that include bicycle and pedestrian accommodations, reconfigured intersections (roundabouts considered at Clinton Street and Fanta Reed Place) to improve safety, and improved grading and storm water facilities. The project will replace deteriorating pavement conditions, provide bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and improve safety and operations along the corridor.

The La Crosse Area Development Corporation (LADCO) is the organization that leads the development and diversification of the La Crosse County regional economy through the location and expansion of quality employers and job producing investments. We exist to drive the region's economic growth and we are supported by more than 90 local private and public sector investors, many of which are located on or need reliable and safe transportation on French Island to carry out their business operations. The La Crosse County project will deliver exceptional benefits, save on construction costs, and make needed investments in our Nation's infrastructure.

Market & Johnson, Inland Packaging, FJ Robers Co. (one of the Midwest's largest dredging contractors), JF Brennan (one of the country's largest marine construction companies), Continental Cement and the Xcel Energy French Island Generating Station (a resource recovery facility with the capacity to turn more than 100,000 tons of municipal solid waste into electricity each year), are just a few our businesses that will be directly impacted by this grant. All of these companies are located on French Island and are integral in supporting our regional economy and achieving national objectives.

Please give this 2021 RAISE Discretionary Grant proposal your full attention and if I can answer anything further questions, please let me know. I may be reached at tim@ladcolax.com or (608) 784-5488, ext. 2. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Tim Kabat, Executive Director
LADCO