



**MISSISSIPPI RIVER
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

1707 Main Street, Suite 435
La Crosse, WI 54601
Phone: (608) 785-9396
Fax: (608) 785-9394
Email: plan@mrrpc.com
Website: mrrpc.com

James Kuhn, Cashton WI
Chairman
Margret Baecker, Independence WI
Vice Chairman
Vicki Burke, Onalaska, WI
Secretary & Treasurer
Dave Bonifas La Crosse, WI
Director

June 8, 2021

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 Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission (MRRPC) represents La Crosse County as well as eight surrounding counties in the region, and is tasked with economic, physical, and social development for the Region.

Construction of the La Crosse French Island Freight and Mobility Improvements will greatly benefit the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commissions area by enabling expansion of critical economic generators. Completion of the proposed project also supports the 2017-2022 *Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy*, specifically: Improving the Region's Transportation, Telecommunication, Renewable Energy and Public Facility Infrastructure, therefore I am writing to express my support.

Please give this 2021 RAISE Discretionary Grant proposal your full attention and if I can answer anything further, please let me know. I may be reached at 608-785-9396 or email dave@mrrpc.com

Sincerely,

MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Dave Bonifas, Director