

AMY KLOBUCHAR
MINNESOTA

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION,
AND FORESTRY
COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
JUDICIARY
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 31, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
United States Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue Southeast
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Olmsted County, Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Program

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

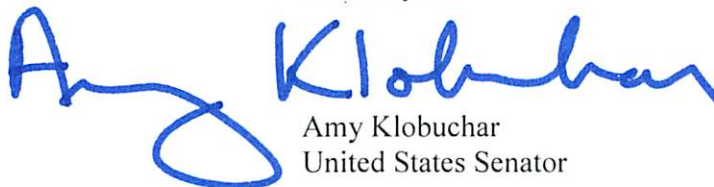
I write in support of Olmsted County's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Program (RAISE). If awarded, funding would support the Olmsted County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 44/U.S. Highway 14 Interchange Project, which would address critical safety concerns, decrease congestion, enhance connectivity, and reinvigorate the local economy.

U.S. Highway 14 (US-14) is a vital east-west arterial route that extends from the Mississippi River to the Minnesota-South Dakota border. The highway serves an important role in supporting commuters, freight movement, and recreational travel across the region. However, improvements need to be made to the highway in order to ensure that public safety concerns are properly addressed along the corridor. The highway is currently still utilizing signaled, at-grade intersections at key access points; accounting for some of the highest crash rates in the region. As a result, Olmsted County is actively seeking solutions to address this.

Funding from the RAISE Program would improve a critical junction in Minnesota's transportation network by eliminating two signalized intersections on US-14; facilitating a grade separation at the intersection of US-14 and Minnesota Highway 44 and constructing an overpass at the intersection of US-14 and 7th Street. The new interchange would also eliminate an existing at-grade railroad crossing that runs parallel to US-14. Not only would this project reduce delays for commuters and enhance connectivity, but it would also improve public safety in the region by eliminating two signaled intersections that are prone to accidents. If approved, completing this project would support the needs of rural Minnesotans by improving and modernizing the regional transportation network in southeast Minnesota.

Again, I support Olmsted County's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Program. If you have any questions, please contact Rommel Lee in my Minnesota office at (612) 727-5220 or by email at Rommel_Lee@Klobuchar.Senate.Gov.

Sincerely,



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 30, 2023

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

RE: FY 2023 RAISE Grant Program/# G4910-9X

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to urge your consideration for the Olmsted County MN's application for a United States Department of Transportation's FY 2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. This project aligns with the USDOT's strategic goals as it addresses critical safety concerns around the rapidly growing city of Rochester, Minnesota. The improvements created will have a significant local and regional impact and will result in a cohesive network of multimodal alternatives supporting diverse community needs.

The project spans across US 14 – an interregional corridor connecting several suburban, exurban, and rural communities in, or adjacent to, the Rochester Metropolitan Area. Rochester is the third largest and the fastest growing city in Minnesota. This heavily traveled corridor is a primary commuter route and a regional freight route. It provides significant connectivity to the western side of the city and is critically needed so residents and visitors of all backgrounds, incomes, and abilities may access jobs, healthcare, and housing.

The project eliminates two crash prone intersections and numerous conflict points. Crashes at the intersection average 10 – 13 per year, including a recent fatality. The RAISE funding would facilitate completion of the long-planned grade separation of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 44 and US Highway (US) 14 and would construct an overpass structure at 7th Street NW. The new interchange will also eliminate the existing at-grade railroad crossing between CSAH 44 and the Canadian Pacific (CP) Railway line that runs parallel to US 14.

I personally toured this intersection last spring and can attest to its importance. The construction of a grade separated interchange, elimination of the at-grade railroad crossing, construction of associated overpass and roadway improvements, and construction of new multimodal connections will strengthen the transport system, bring much needed safety improvements to the corridor and support anticipated growth in Rochester and Olmsted County. For the reasons above, I encourage your strong consideration of this proposal. If you have any questions, please contact Jeanne Poppe by email at Jeanne_poppe@smith.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Tina Smith
U.S. Senator

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

January 31, 2023

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

RE: Letter of Support for the FY 2023 RAISE Grant Program: Olmsted County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 44 / US Highway (US) 14 Interchange Project, Olmsted County, MN

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing in support of Olmsted County's application for funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation's FY 2023 RAISE Grant for their County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 44 / US Highway 14 interchange project.

The project's proposed improvements will have a significant local and regional impact and will result in a cohesive network of multimodal alternatives that support the community's needs. This aligns with the strategic goals of the RAISE Grant as it addresses critical safety concerns around the rapidly growing city of Rochester, Minnesota.

If chosen, the funding would be used to eliminate two crash prone intersections and numerous conflict points. The award would facilitate completion of the long-planned grade separation of CSAH 44 and Highway 14 along with the construction of an overpass structure at 7th Street NW. The new interchange will also eliminate the existing at-grade railroad crossing between CSAH 44 and the Canadian Pacific (CP) Railway line that runs parallel to US 14.

Improvements to the CSAH 44 / Hwy 14 interchange would strengthen Rochester's transportation system to support the anticipated growth of Rochester, Olmsted County, and the surrounding region. I support Olmsted County's application for the funding of the Olmsted CSAH 44 / US Highway (US) 14 Interchange Project and appreciate your consideration of their application for funding through the RAISE Grant program.

Sincerely,



Brad Finstad
Member of Congress



Senate

State of Minnesota

Sen. Steve Drazkowski

February 2, 2023

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

RE: Letter of Support for the FY 2023 RAISE Grant Program: Olmsted County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 44 / US Highway (US) 14 Interchange Project, Olmsted County, MN

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of the Olmsted County's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's FY 2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. The Project aligns with the USDOT's strategic goals as it addresses critical safety concerns around the rapidly growing city of Rochester, Minnesota. The improvements due to the Project will have a significant local and regional impact and will result in a cohesive network of multimodal alternatives that support diverse community needs.

The RAISE funding would eliminate two crash prone intersections and numerous conflict points. The award would facilitate completion of the long-planned grade separation of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 44 and US Highway (US) 14 along with the construction of overpass structure at 7th Street NW. The new interchange will also eliminate the existing at-grade railroad crossing between CSAH 44 and the Canadian Pacific (CP) Railway line that runs parallel to US 14.

The Project spans across US 14 – a significant interregional corridor connecting several suburban, exurban, and rural communities in, or adjacent to, the Rochester Metropolitan Area. Rochester is the third largest and the fastest growing city in Minnesota. The project provides multimodal connectivity to the thriving community, housing developments of various densities, employment centers, medical facilities, and retail/commercial/tourist destinations. Infrastructure improvements along the project corridor are critically needed so residents and visitors of all backgrounds, incomes, and abilities may access jobs, healthcare, and housing.

The construction of a grade separated interchange, elimination of the at-grade railroad crossing, construction of associated overpass and roadway improvements, and construction of new multimodal connections will strengthen our system of transport and contribute to growth in our region, including the anticipated growth of Rochester and Olmsted County.



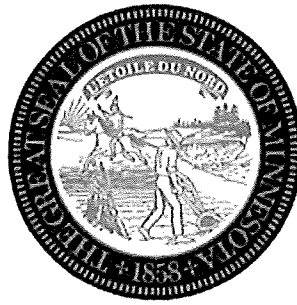
I support Olmsted County's application for the funding of the Olmsted County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 44 / US Highway (US) 14 Interchange Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this 2023 RAISE Discretionary Grant proposal your full consideration and if I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I may be reached at 651-296-5612.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Drazkowski", is positioned above the printed name.

Senator Steve Drazkowski
Minnesota State Senate

Senator Carla Nelson



Senate District 24
2301 Minnesota Senate Building
95 West University Avenue
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

February 2, 2023

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

RE: Letter of Support for the FY 2023 RAISE Grant Program: Olmsted County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 44 / US Highway (US) 14 Interchange Project, Olmsted County, MN

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to support Olmsted County's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's FY 2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. The Project aligns with the USDOT's strategic goals as it addresses critical safety concerns around the rapidly growing city of Rochester, Minnesota. The improvements due to the Project will have a significant local and regional impact and will result in a cohesive network of multimodal alternatives that support diverse community needs.

The RAISE funding would eliminate two crash prone intersections and numerous conflict points. County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 44 intersects Trunk Highway 14 at a skewed angle and has significant safety concerns. Fatalities make this a pressing issue and has resulted in reduced conflict intersections on this busy highway. The award would facilitate completion of the long-planned and much needed grade separation of CSAH 44 and US Highway (US) 14 along with the construction of overpass structure at 7th Street NW. The new interchange will also eliminate the existing, dangerous at-grade railroad crossing between CSAH 44 and the Canadian Pacific (CP) Railway line that runs parallel to US 14.

The Project spans across US 14 – a significant interregional corridor connecting several suburban, exurban, and rural communities in, or adjacent to, the Rochester Metropolitan Area. Rochester is the third largest and the fastest growing city in Minnesota. The project provides multimodal connectivity to the thriving community, housing developments of various densities, employment centers, medical facilities, and retail/commercial/tourist destinations. Infrastructure improvements along the project corridor are critically needed for residents and visitors of all backgrounds, incomes, and abilities to access jobs, healthcare, and housing. As a State Senator, I have a duty to consider the impacts this project would have on the Rochester Area as well as surrounding communities. Funding for this project will help Southern Minnesota become a larger contributor to our state's economy.

The construction of a grade separated interchange, elimination of the at-grade railroad crossing, construction of associated overpass and roadway improvements, and construction of new multimodal connections will strengthen our transportation system, improve safety, and further enhance growth in our region, including the anticipated growth of Rochester and Olmsted County.

I strongly support Olmsted County's application for the funding of the Olmsted County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 44 / US Highway (US) 14 Interchange Project and look forward to infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this 2023 RAISE Discretionary Grant proposal your full consideration and if I

can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I may be reached at sen.carla.nelson@senate.mn or 651.296.4848.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carla Nelson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Carla Nelson
State Senator
District 24 – Serving Dodge and Olmsted Counties

February 27, 2023

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

RE: Letter of Support for the FY 2023 RAISE Grant Program: Olmsted County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 44 / US Highway (US) 14 Interchange Project, Olmsted County, MN

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of the Olmsted County's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's FY 2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. The Project aligns with the USDOT's strategic goals as it addresses critical safety concerns around the rapidly growing city of Rochester, Minnesota. The improvements due to the Project will have a significant local and regional impact and will result in a cohesive network of multimodal alternatives that support diverse community needs.

The RAISE funding would eliminate two crash prone intersections and numerous conflict points. The award would facilitate completion of the long-planned grade separation of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 44 and US Highway (US) 14 along with the construction of overpass structure at 7th Street NW. The new interchange will also eliminate the existing at-grade railroad crossing between CSAH 44 and the Canadian Pacific (CP) Railway line that runs parallel to US 14.

The Project spans across US 14 – a significant interregional corridor connecting several suburban, exurban, and rural communities in, or adjacent to, the Rochester Metropolitan Area. Rochester is the third largest and the fastest growing city in Minnesota. The project provides multimodal connectivity to the thriving community, housing developments of various densities, employment centers, medical facilities, and retail/commercial/tourist destinations. Infrastructure improvements along the project corridor are critically needed so residents and visitors of all backgrounds, incomes, and abilities may access jobs, healthcare, and housing.

As a Minnesota State Senator representing the surrounding area, I have heard frequently from community members and stakeholders that it is important to the safety and economic prosperity of my constituents that this project be completed. The construction of a grade separated interchange, elimination of the at-grade railroad crossing, construction of associated overpass and roadway improvements, and construction of new multimodal connections will strengthen our system of transport and contribute to growth in our region, including the anticipated growth of Rochester and Olmsted County.

I support Olmsted County's application for the funding of the Olmsted County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 44 / US Highway (US) 14 Interchange Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this 2023 RAISE Discretionary Grant proposal your full consideration and if I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I may be reached at Sen.Liz.Boldon@senate.mn.

Sincerely,



Senator Liz Boldon
Minnesota Senate District 25
Senate DFL Caucus - Assistant Majority Leader

Andy Smith
State Representative

District 25B



Minnesota House of Representative

February 22, 2023

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

RE: Letter of Support for the FY 2023 RAISE Grant Program: Olmsted County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 44 / US Highway (US) 14 Interchange Project, Olmsted County, MN

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of the Olmsted County's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's FY 2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. The Project aligns with the USDOT's strategic goals as it addresses critical safety concerns around the rapidly growing city of Rochester, Minnesota. The improvements due to the Project will have a significant local and regional impact and will result in a cohesive network of multimodal alternatives that support diverse community needs.

The RAISE funding would eliminate two crash prone intersections and numerous conflict points. The award would facilitate completion of the long-planned grade separation of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 44 and US Highway (US) 14 along with the construction of overpass structure at 7th Street NW. The new interchange will also eliminate the existing at-grade railroad crossing between CSAH 44 and the Canadian Pacific (CP) Railway line that runs parallel to US 14.

The Project spans across US 14 – a significant interregional corridor connecting several suburban, exurban, and rural communities in, or adjacent to, the Rochester Metropolitan Area. Rochester is the third largest and the fastest growing city in Minnesota. The project provides multimodal connectivity to the thriving community, housing developments of various densities, employment centers, medical facilities, and retail/commercial/tourist destinations. Infrastructure improvements along the project corridor are critically needed so residents and visitors of all backgrounds, incomes, and abilities may access jobs, healthcare, and housing.

The construction of a grade separated interchange, elimination of the at-grade railroad crossing, construction of associated overpass and roadway improvements, and construction of new multimodal connections will strengthen our system of transport and contribute to growth in our region, including the anticipated growth of Rochester and Olmsted County.

I support Olmsted County's application for the funding of the Olmsted County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 44 / US Highway (US) 14 Interchange Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this 2023 RAISE Discretionary Grant proposal your full consideration and if I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I may be reached at Rep.Andy.Smith@house.mn.gov and 651-296-9249.

Sincerely,

Andrew J Smith

Andy Smith
State Representative, 25B
MN House of Representatives

January 27, 2023

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

RE: Letter of Support for the FY 2023 RAISE Grant Program: Olmsted County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 44 / US Highway (US) 14 Interchange Project, Olmsted County, MN

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of the Olmsted County's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's FY 2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. The Project aligns with the USDOT's strategic goals as it addresses critical safety concerns around the rapidly growing city of Rochester, Minnesota. The improvements due to the Project will have a significant local and regional impact and will result in a cohesive network of multimodal alternatives that support diverse community needs.

The RAISE funding would eliminate two crash prone intersections and numerous conflict points. The award would facilitate completion of the long-planned grade separation of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 44 and US Highway (US) 14 along with the construction of overpass structure at 7th Street NW. The new interchange will also eliminate the existing at-grade railroad crossing between CSAH 44 and the Canadian Pacific (CP) Railway line that runs parallel to US 14.

The Project spans across US 14 – a significant interregional corridor connecting several suburban, exurban, and rural communities in, or adjacent to, the Rochester Metropolitan Area. Rochester is the third largest and the fastest growing city in Minnesota. The project provides multimodal connectivity to the thriving community, housing developments of various densities, employment centers, medical facilities, and retail/commercial/tourist destinations. Infrastructure improvements along the project corridor are critically needed so residents and visitors of all backgrounds, incomes, and abilities may access jobs, healthcare, and housing.

The construction of a grade separated interchange, elimination of the at-grade railroad crossing, construction of associated overpass and roadway improvements, and construction of new multimodal connections will strengthen our system of transport and contribute to growth in our region, including the anticipated growth of Rochester and Olmsted County.

I support Olmsted County's application for the funding of the Olmsted County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 44 / US Highway (US) 14 Interchange Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this 2023 RAISE Discretionary Grant proposal your full consideration and if I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I may be reached by email at rep.kim.hicks@house.mn.gov or 651-296-4378.

Sincerely,



Representative Kim Hicks
Proudly serving the communities of Rochester, Oronoco, and Haverhill Township

January 27, 2023

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

RE: Letter of Support for the FY 2023 RAISE Grant Program: Olmsted County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 44 /
US Highway (US) 14 Interchange Project, Olmsted County, MN

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives representing Olmsted County, I am writing in support of Olmsted County's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's FY 2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. The Project aligns with the USDOT's strategic goals as it addresses critical safety concerns around the rapidly growing city of Rochester, Minnesota. The improvements from the Project will also have significant local and regional impacts and result in a cohesive network of multimodal alternatives that support a diverse set of community needs.

The RAISE funding would eliminate two crash prone intersections and numerous conflict points, which have been issues repeatedly raised among our community. The award would facilitate completion of the long-planned grade separation of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 44 and US Highway (US) 14 along with the construction of an overpass structure at 7th Street NW. The new interchange will also eliminate the existing at-grade railroad crossing between CSAH 44 and the Canadian Pacific (CP) Railway line that runs parallel to US 14.

The Project spans across US 14 – a significant interregional corridor connecting several suburban, exurban, and rural communities in, or adjacent to, the Rochester Metropolitan Area. Rochester is the third largest and the fastest growing city in Minnesota. As you know from your work as transportation secretary, an infrastructure project such as this provides much-needed multimodal connectivity to the thriving community, housing developments of various densities, employment centers, medical facilities, and retail/commercial/tourist destinations. These infrastructure improvements are critical to enabling access to jobs, healthcare, and housing for Minnesotans of all backgrounds.

As a representative of the people of Olmsted County and the surrounding areas, I would like to see this goal accomplished. This project is of the utmost importance to my constituents and my district, and I am committed to ensuring that it is appropriately funded and completed in a timely manner. The construction of a grade separated interchange, elimination of the at-grade railroad crossing, construction of associated overpass and roadway improvements, and construction of new multimodal connections will all serve to strengthen our system of transport and contribute to growth in our region, including the anticipated growth of Rochester and Olmsted County.

I fully support Olmsted County's application for 2023 RAISE grant funding of the CSAH 44 / US 14 Interchange Project and look forward to bringing vital infrastructure investment to our region through bipartisan means. Please give this proposal your full consideration. If I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or my office.

Sincerely,

Steven Jacob
State Representative, District 20B
Minnesota House of Representatives
Rep.Steven.Jacob@house.mn.gov
651-296-2273

February 27, 2023

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

RE: Letter of Support for the FY 2023 RAISE Grant Program: Olmsted County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 44 / US Highway (US) 14 Interchange Project, Olmsted County, MN

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to support the Olmsted County application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's FY 2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. The Project aligns with the USDOT's strategic goals as it addresses critical safety concerns on a major regional artery to the rapidly growing city of Rochester, Minnesota. The improvements from the Project will have significant local and regional impacts, resulting in a cohesive multimodal network of alternatives that support diverse community needs.

The RAISE funding would eliminate two crash prone intersections that are at an oblique angle, and numerous conflict points. The award would facilitate completion of the long-planned grade separation of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 44 and US Highway (US) 14 along with the construction of overpass structure at 7th Street NW. The new interchange will also eliminate the existing at-grade railroad crossing between CSAH 44 and the Canadian Pacific (CP) Railway line that runs parallel to US 14.

The Project spans across US 14 – a significant interregional corridor connecting several suburban, exurban, and rural communities in, or adjacent to, the Rochester Metropolitan Area. Rochester is the fastest growing, and third largest city in Minnesota, with about 100 different languages spoken in its homes. The project will provide multimodal connectivity to this thriving community, housing developments of various densities, employment centers, medical facilities, and retail/commercial/tourist destinations. Infrastructure improvements along the project corridor are critically needed so residents and visitors of all backgrounds, incomes, and abilities may access jobs, healthcare, and housing.

The construction of a grade separated interchange, elimination of the at-grade railroad crossing, construction of associated overpass and roadway improvements, and construction of new multimodal connections will strengthen the transport system, contributing to growth in the region, including anticipated growth of Rochester and Olmsted County.

I support Olmsted County's application for the funding of the Olmsted County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 44 / US Highway (US) 14 Interchange Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this 2023 RAISE Discretionary Grant proposal your full consideration and if I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I may be reached at 651-296-2936.

Sincerely,

Duane Quam
State Representative MN HD24A



February 23, 2023

Pete Buttigieg

United States Secretary of Transportation

U.S. Department of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Ave, SE

Washington, DC 20590

RE: Letter of Support for the FY 2023 RAISE Grant Program: US Highway (US) 14 / Olmsted County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 44 Interchange Project, Olmsted County, MN

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing on behalf of the Rochester-Olmsted Council of Governments (ROCOG), the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Rochester, MN, Urbanized Area, in support of the Olmsted County, MN's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's FY 2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program. The project will involve the construction of a grade separated interchange at the intersection of a corridor on the National Highway System (US 14) and CSAH 44, designated as a future strategic major arterial on the ROCOG 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan.

The Project aligns with the USDOT's strategic goals as it addresses critical safety concerns at the two at-grade intersections currently existing within the project area, and supports economic development opportunities in a rapidly growing area of the city of Rochester. The improvements proposed will have a significant local and regional impact and will result in a project that supports a cohesive, connected network of multimodal travel options that advance community goals.

The RAISE funding will support elimination of two crash prone intersections and numerous conflict points. In addition to the construction of the long-planned grade separation of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 44 and US Highway (US) 14, the project will also include construction of overpass structure at the at-grade intersection of US 14 and 7th Street NW, routing 7th St traffic to CSAH 44 to provide access to US 14. The new interchange will also eliminate the existing at-grade railroad crossing between CSAH 44 and the Canadian Pacific (CP) Railway line that runs parallel and in close proximity to US 14.

The proposed interchange will span US 14, a significant interregional corridor connecting several suburban, exurban, and rural communities in, or adjacent to, the Rochester

metropolitan area. Rochester is the third largest and the fastest growing city in Minnesota and is the major employment center in Southeast Minnesota. Approximately 1/3^d of the roughly 120,000 jobs in the Rochester Urbanized Area are filled by workers commuting to Rochester from the larger region, with approximately 1/5th of those commuters coming into Rochester from points west and served by the US 14 corridor. Rochester is also the major retail center for southeastern Minnesota, with approximately 50% of regional retail sales occurring in Rochester/ Olmsted County while accounting for approximately 40% of the regional population.

Another important issue the interchange will address is the movement of heavy agricultural equipment between farm areas northwest and southwest of the US 14 corridor which need to cross US 14, particularly during spring planting and fall harvest seasons. Operators of this slow moving equipment are finding it increasingly hard to cross the corridor due to the high volume, high speed nature of traffic on US 14, with few if any reasonable alternative options available. Within the Rochester urbanized area, the project will provide multimodal connectivity to a predominant growth area in Rochester, serving housing developments of various densities, employment centers, medical facilities, and retail/commercial destinations.

ROCOG respectfully requests your consideration for Olmsted County's RAISE grant application for funding to construct an interchange at CSAH 44 and US 14. The need for an interchange at this location has been identified in the regional ROCOG 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan as a high priority improvement. Over the last two decades, no less than three separate corridor studies along US 14 have identified the CSAH 44 / US 14 intersection as in need of an interchange, the most recent study being completed in January 2021. This project will help ensure the safety of the motoring public as well as the economic vitality of the US 14 corridor. We greatly appreciate your support and hard work on behalf of all residents within Olmsted County.

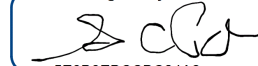
Please do not hesitate to contact me if there are any questions. I may be reached at 507-328-7100

Sincerely,



29E057B80EB44D2...
Ben Griffith, AICP
Executive Director
Rochester – Olmsted Council of
Governments

DocuSigned by:



5E0B85BCCBC34A2...
Shaun Palmer
Chair, Policy Board
Rochester-Olmsted Council of
Governments

February 23, 2023

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

RE: Letter of Support for the FY 2023 RAISE Grant Program: Olmsted County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 44 / US Highway (US) 14 Interchange Project, Olmsted County, MN

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of the Olmsted County's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's FY 2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. The project aligns with the USDOT's strategic goals as it addresses critical safety concerns around the rapidly growing city of Rochester, Minnesota. The improvements brought about by this project will have a significant local and regional impact and will result in a cohesive network of multimodal alternatives that support diverse community needs.

The RAISE funding would eliminate two crash prone intersections and numerous conflict points. The award would facilitate completion of the long-planned grade separation of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 44 and US Highway (US) 14 along with the construction of overpass structure at 7th Street NW. The new interchange will also eliminate the existing at-grade railroad crossing between CSAH 44 and the Canadian Pacific (CP) Railway line that runs parallel to US 14.

The Project spans across US 14 – a significant interregional corridor connecting several suburban, exurban, and rural communities in, or adjacent to, the Rochester Metropolitan Area. Rochester is the third largest and the fastest growing city in Minnesota. This project provides multimodal connectivity to the thriving community, housing developments of various densities, employment centers, medical facilities, and retail/commercial/tourist destinations. Infrastructure improvements along the project corridor are critically needed so residents and visitors of all backgrounds, incomes, and abilities may access jobs, healthcare, and housing.

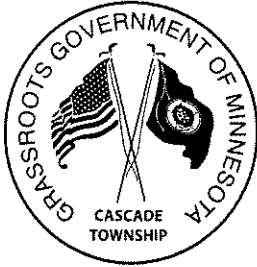
The construction of the CSAH 44 and US 14 interchange will be critical to the ongoing development of Olmsted County. The interchange will serve as an integral piece in the development of businesses in the surrounding area, benefit the area workforce through improved access and safety in commutes, and add to the region's quality of life, including safety for visitors, residents, and the area's workforce. The construction of a grade separated interchange, elimination of the at-grade railroad crossing, construction of the associated overpass and roadway improvements, and construction of new multimodal connections will strengthen our system of transport and contribute to growth in our region, including the anticipated growth of both Rochester and Olmsted County.

The Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce, an organization of over 1,100 regional businesses, supports Olmsted County's application for the funding of the Olmsted County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 44 / US Highway (US) 14 Interchange Project and looks forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. We ask that you give this 2023 RAISE Discretionary Grant proposal your full consideration and if I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I may be reached at rparsons@rochestermnchamber.com

Sincerely,



Ryan Parsons
President
Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce



CASCADE
--- TOWNSHIP ---

2025 75TH Street NE
Rochester, MN 55906
507.282.6678
www.cascadetownship.us

February 17, 2023

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

RE: Letter of Support for the FY 2023 RAISE Grant Program: Olmsted County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 44 / US Highway (US) 14 Interchange Project, Olmsted County, MN

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of Olmsted County's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's FY 2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. The Project aligns with the USDOT's strategic goals as it addresses critical safety concerns around the rapidly growing city of Rochester, Minnesota. The improvements due to the Project will have a significant local and regional impact and will result in a cohesive network of multimodal alternatives that support diverse community needs.

The RAISE funding would eliminate two crash prone intersections and numerous conflict points. The award would facilitate completion of the long-planned grade separation of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 44 and US Highway (US) 14 along with the construction of overpass structure at 7th Street NW. The new interchange will also eliminate the existing at-grade railroad crossing between CSAH 44 and the Canadian Pacific (CP) Railway line that runs parallel to US 14.

The Project spans across US 14 – a significant interregional corridor connecting several suburban, exurban, and rural communities in, or adjacent to, the Rochester Metropolitan Area. Rochester is the third largest and the fastest growing city in Minnesota. The project provides multimodal connectivity to the thriving community, housing developments of various densities, employment centers, medical facilities, and retail/commercial/tourist destinations. Infrastructure improvements along the project corridor are critically needed so residents and visitors of all backgrounds, incomes, and abilities may access jobs, healthcare, and housing.

This project will promote safer transportation within the Cascade Township jurisdiction, providing a remedy to an area of great concern to our citizens for many years. The construction of a grade separated interchange, elimination of the at-grade railroad crossing, construction of associated overpass and roadway improvements, and construction of new multimodal connections will strengthen our system of transport and contribute to growth in our region, including the anticipated growth of Rochester and Olmsted County.

I support Olmsted County's application for the funding of the Olmsted County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 44 / US Highway (US) 14 Interchange Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this 2023 RAISE Discretionary Grant proposal your full consideration and if I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I may be reached at hegrenes.cascade.township@gmail.com or (507) 269-0645.

Sincerely,

Ordean Hegrenes
Cascade Township Supervisor
Cascade Township, Olmsted County, Minnesota

SKR/skr

KALMAR TOWNSHIP
Olmsted County Minnesota
Est. 1858

Kalmar Township
PO Box 837 Byron MN 55920
Phone / Text: 507-319-7947
email: kalmartownship@gmail.com

February 21, 2023

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

RE: Letter of Support for the FY 2023 RAISE Grant Program: Olmsted County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 44 /
US Highway (US) 14 Interchange Project, Olmsted County, MN

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of the Olmsted County's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's FY 2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. The Project aligns with the USDOT's strategic goals as it addresses critical safety concerns around the rapidly growing city of Rochester, Minnesota. The improvements due to the Project will have a significant local and regional impact and will result in a cohesive network of multimodal alternatives that support diverse community needs.

The RAISE funding would eliminate two crash prone intersections and numerous conflict points. A number of our township residents have been killed and others seriously injured at these intersections. The award would also facilitate completion of the long-planned grade separation of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 44 and US Highway (US) 14 along with the construction of overpass structure at 7th Street NW. The new interchange will also eliminate the existing at-grade railroad crossing between CSAH 44 and the Canadian Pacific (CP) Railway line that runs parallel to US 14.

The Project spans across US 14 – a significant interregional corridor connecting Kalmar Township with several suburban, exurban, and rural communities in, or adjacent to, the Rochester Metropolitan Area. Rochester is the third largest and the fastest growing city in Minnesota. The project provides multimodal connectivity to the thriving community, housing developments of various densities, employment centers, medical facilities, and retail/commercial/tourist destinations. Infrastructure improvements along the project corridor are critically needed so residents and visitors of all backgrounds, incomes, and abilities may access jobs, healthcare, and housing.

The construction of a grade separated interchange, elimination of the at-grade railroad crossing, construction of associated overpass and roadway improvements, and construction of new multimodal connections will strengthen our system of transport and contribute to growth in our region, including the anticipated growth of Rochester and Olmsted County.

The Kalmar Township board supports Olmsted County's application for the funding of the Olmsted County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 44 / US Highway (US) 14 Interchange Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this 2023 RAISE Discretionary Grant proposal your full consideration and if I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me (see my contact information at top of page).

Sincerely,



Glenn Quam
Kalmar Township Board Chair
On behalf of the Kalmar Township Board of Supervisors



February 2, 2023

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

RE: Letter of Support for the FY 2023 RAISE Grant Program: Olmsted County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 44 / US Highway (US) 14 Interchange Project, Olmsted County, MN

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of the Olmsted County's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's FY 2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. The Project aligns with the USDOT's strategic goals as it addresses critical safety concerns around the rapidly growing city of Rochester, Minnesota. The improvements, due to the project, will have a significant local and regional impact and will result in a cohesive network of multimodal alternatives that support diverse community needs.

The RAISE funding would eliminate two crash-prone intersections and numerous conflict points. The award would facilitate completion of the long-planned grade separation of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 44 and US Highway (US) 14 along with the construction of an overpass structure at Seventh Street Northwest. The new interchange will also eliminate the existing at-grade railroad crossing between CSAH 44 and the Canadian Pacific (CP) Railway line that runs parallel to US 14.

The Project spans across US 14 – a significant interregional corridor connecting several suburban, exurban, and rural communities in, or adjacent to, the Rochester Metropolitan Area. Rochester is the third largest and the fastest-growing city in Minnesota. The project provides multimodal connectivity to the thriving community, housing developments of various densities, employment centers, medical facilities, and retail/commercial/tourist destinations. Infrastructure improvements along the project corridor are critically needed so residents and visitors of all backgrounds, incomes, and abilities may access jobs, healthcare, and housing.

The construction of a grade-separated interchange, elimination of the at-grade railroad crossing, construction of associated overpass and roadway improvements, and construction of new multimodal connections will strengthen our system of transport and contribute to growth in our region, including the anticipated growth of Rochester and Olmsted County.

I support Olmsted County's application for the funding of the Olmsted County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 44/US Highway (US) 14 Interchange Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this 2023 RAISE Discretionary Grant proposal your full consideration.

If you need anything additional, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Wade". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Wade
President