

March 28, 2022

Mr. 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 2022 RAISE Grant Program
Three Rivers' Regional Trail Network: Connecting Communities through Sustainability, Equity, and Mobility

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of Three Rivers Park District's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. Three Rivers' regional trail network is an important amenity in our community, connecting people to work, school, parks and businesses, and providing opportunities for exercise and connecting with nature. The RAISE grant funding will facilitate the completion of this vital community feature.

The project aligns with many of the USDOT's goals including making communities and transportation routes safer, improving accessibility and mobility, expanding equitable community connectivity, and reducing impacts of climate change by providing infrastructure for active transportation and recreation.

We have had the opportunity to work with Three Rivers as a partner in connecting community members with disabilities to nature and helping them learn new outdoor recreation skills. Biking and the regional trail network have been core elements to our partnership and are valued by our community members.

Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute's Adaptive Sports and Recreation partners with people of all ages and abilities to pursue their goals to live, work, learn and play. We introduce with individuals to biking in their community via the trails operated by Three Rivers Park District. Over the years we have notice how important universal design and accessibility is out on the trails.

I support Three Rivers Park District's request for funding of the Regional Trail Network project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our community. Please give this 2022 RAISE grant proposal your full consideration. If I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me; I can be reached at megan.welty@allina.com or 612-775-2280

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Megan Welty".

Megan Welty
Manager, Adaptive Sports & Recreation
Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute, part of Allina Health

Tuesday, April 5, 2022
Mr. 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 2022 RAISE Grant Program

Three Rivers' Regional Trail Network: Connecting Communities through Sustainability, Equity, and Mobility

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of Three Rivers Park District's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. Three Rivers' regional trail network is an important amenity in our community, connecting people to work, school, parks and businesses, and providing opportunities for exercise and connecting with nature. The RAISE grant funding will facilitate the completion of this vital community feature.

The project aligns with many of the USDOT's goals including making communities and transportation routes safer, improving accessibility and mobility, expanding equitable community connectivity, and reducing impacts of climate change by providing infrastructure for active transportation and recreation.

We have had the opportunity to work with Three Rivers as a partner in connecting community members to nature and helping them learn new outdoor recreation skills. Biking and the regional trail network have been core elements to our partnership and are valued by our community members.

Last year the University of Minnesota Extension SNAP-Ed, a USDA funded program, partnered with Three Rivers to offer a Men and Father's Pilot Project. The Men and Father's Project is a statewide pilot program which aims to focus on culturally responsive physical, mental, and social wellness of men and fathers by connecting them to each other and learning new valuable skills, particularly through physical activity and nutrition. Our program acknowledges men and fathers are valuable resources for each other, have their own unique needs across cultures, their perspective carries value, and can play a positive role in family and community when it comes to

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

University of Minnesota Extension

Hennepin County

*Suite 2
479 Prairie Center Drive
Eden Prairie, MN 55344-5378*

*612-596-2110
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www.extension.umn.edu
mnext-hennepin@umn.edu*

health. Throughout the program the participants engaged in different outdoor activities including fishing, hiking, canoeing, and camping. Men and Fathers are valuable resources to each other and to our programs. Our program reached Men and Fathers who are new to the country and low-income communities of color who face the largest disparities in health in Minnesota. Three Rivers was a critical partner in providing the venue, access to equipment, staffing, and introduction and use of the trail systems.

Without reservations, I support Three Rivers Park District's request for funding of the Regional Trail Network project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our community. Please give this 2022 RAISE grant proposal your full consideration. If I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me; I can be reached at pham0375@umn.edu or 612-245-6116.

Sincerely,

Thao Pham

SNAP-Ed Regional Educator

University of Minnesota Extension

March 31, 2022

Mr. 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 2022 RAISE Grant Program
**Three Rivers' Regional Trail Network:
Connecting Communities through Sustainability, Equity, and Mobility**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of the Three Rivers Park District's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. The RAISE funding will facilitate completion of Three Rivers Park District's long-planned multimodal connections in the region. The Project, **Three Rivers' Regional Trail Network: Connecting Communities through Sustainability, Equity, and Mobility**, will fill critical links in the regional trail network, reconstruct trail sections that are beyond their useful life and make other important safety and useability improvements such as striping, regulatory signage, wayfinding, ADA compliant curb cuts and ramps as well as other road crossing enhancements. The Project will result in:

- 7 miles of new regional trail,
- 8 miles of reconstructed regional trail,
- 8 miles of improvements to newly designated regional trails, and
- One new grade-separated crossing of CSAH 103.

This work and critical investment will result in a more cohesive network of active transportation multimodal alternatives which support a wide range of community needs.

The project aligns with USDOT's goals including addressing critical safety concerns for those traveling along Three Rivers' regional trail system, expanding equitable mobility and community connectivity, and addressing climate change by providing multimodal access to and from recreational opportunities, employment areas, single and multi-family housing, and places of commerce and assembly.

The Loppet Foundation manages in partnership with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board - the largest regional park in Minneapolis - Theodore Wirth Park. Our connection and partnership with Three Rivers Park District runs deep as we work together to strengthen our regional trail system and accessibility to that system throughout the greater metro area. While our focus is within the city limits and Three Rivers in the surrounding communities - our entire system benefits from these improvements and new sections of trail. More folks than ever will have access to Theodore Wirth Park and will have the ability to connect in a seamless way with the Three Rivers managed system. We are thrilled to support this application.

I support Three Rivers Park District's request for the funding of the Three Rivers' Regional Trail Network: Connecting Communities through Sustainability, Equity, and Mobility and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this 2022 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 claire@loppet.org or directly at 612-618-2791.

Sincerely,

Claire Wilson

Claire Wilson
Executive Director
The Loppet Foundaiton

April 7, 2022

Mr. 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 2022 RAISE Grant Program
Three Rivers' Regional Trail Network: Connecting Communities through Sustainability, Equity, and Mobility

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of Three Rivers Park District's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. Three Rivers' regional trail network is an important amenity in our community, connecting people to work, school, parks and businesses, and providing opportunities for exercise, transportation, and connecting with nature. The RAISE grant funding will facilitate the completion of this vital community feature.

The project aligns with many of the USDOT's goals including making communities and transportation routes safer, improving accessibility and mobility, expanding equitable community connectivity, and reducing impacts of climate change by providing infrastructure for active transportation and recreation.

I had the opportunity to work with Three Rivers as a partner in connecting community members to nature and helping them learn new outdoor recreation skills through teaching learn to ride a bike classes. Biking and the regional trail network were core elements of our partnership and valued by our community members as a way to connect with the outdoors, with each other, and to move throughout the metropolitan region.

Regional trails and the regional trail system of Three Rivers is an essential part of transportation and recreation in the community and were an important part of giving learn to ride instruction, to provide an off-road space to practice bicycle handling skills and build confidence, specifically for adults who often do not have the opportunity to learn new skills like biking. At the start of these sessions, no one knew how to ride a bike, and by the end, we were going on a group ride on a regional trail. Through this training, it was evident that regional trails build community and serve as a way for people of all backgrounds to feel more welcome and see more people who look like them on bikes and enjoying trails and outdoor spaces.

Through my partnership with Three Rivers, equity was always at the forefront of our work, centering participants and their experiences, and ensuring that first and foremost, trust and community are built. An investment in regional trails increases equity throughout the community, and builds a richer community for all, as well as a connection to the outdoors. This experience teaching learn to ride classes was the richest that I've had on regional trails and in biking, and is a program that could develop with the continued investment in regional trails, so more communities can continue to connect to the regional trail network and to nature.

Beyond these classes, I have also been a part of Three Rivers visioning conversations on how to make regional trails and programs more accessible and equitable. In addition to the work like this that Three Rivers is already leading, increased infrastructure is essential and a major part of this big visioning for a more inclusive and accessible future.

I support Three Rivers Park District's request for funding of the Regional Trail Network project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our community. Please give this 2022 RAISE grant proposal your full consideration. If I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me; I can be reached at ellie.hohulin@gmail.com/630.881.3546.

Sincerely,
Ellie Hohulin
League of American Bicyclists Cycling Instructor (LCI #6418)

March 30, 2022

Mr. 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 2022 RAISE Grant Program
**Three Rivers' Regional Trail Network:
Connecting Communities through Sustainability, Equity, and Mobility**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of the Three Rivers Park District's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. The RAISE funding will facilitate completion of Three Rivers Park District's long-planned multimodal connections in the region. The Project, **Three Rivers' Regional Trail Network: Connecting Communities through Sustainability, Equity, and Mobility**, will fill critical links in the regional trail network, reconstruct trail sections that are beyond their useful life and make other important safety and useability improvements such as striping, regulatory signage, wayfinding, ADA compliant curb cuts and ramps as well as other road crossing enhancements. The Project will result in:

- 7 miles of new regional trail,
- 8 miles of reconstructed regional trail,
- 8 miles of improvements to newly designated regional trails, and
- One new grade-separated crossing of CSAH 103.

This work and critical investment will result in a more cohesive network of active transportation multimodal alternatives which support a wide range of community needs.

The project aligns with USDOT's goals including addressing critical safety concerns for those traveling along Three Rivers' regional trail system, expanding equitable mobility and community connectivity, and addressing climate change by providing multimodal access to and from recreational opportunities, employment areas, single and multi-family housing, and places of commerce and assembly.

Once the project is completed our TRIO program and its diverse group of students will have more access to trails, programs and more importantly, exposure to the outdoors. Our program has and will continue to partner with Three Rivers to help give our student safe and positive experiences within the park system.

I support Three Rivers Park District's request for the funding of the Three Rivers' Regional Trail Network: Connecting Communities through Sustainability, Equity, and Mobility and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this 2022 RAISE Discretionary Grant proposal your full consideration and if I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Robert Cancino

Director of TRIO Upward Bound Programs, Coon Rapids Campus
Anoka-Ramsey Community College
robert.cancino@anokaramsey.edu
763-433-1622

March 31, 2022

Mr. 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 2022 RAISE Grant Program
**Three Rivers' Regional Trail Network:
Connecting Communities through Sustainability, Equity, and Mobility**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of the Three Rivers Park District's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. The RAISE funding will facilitate completion of Three Rivers Park District's long-planned multimodal connections in the region. The Project, **Three Rivers' Regional Trail Network: Connecting Communities through Sustainability, Equity, and Mobility**, will fill critical links in the regional trail network, reconstruct trail sections that are beyond their useful life and make other important safety and useability improvements such as striping, regulatory signage, wayfinding, ADA compliant curb cuts and ramps as well as other road crossing enhancements. The Project will result in:

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The project aligns with USDOT's goals including addressing critical safety concerns for those traveling along Three Rivers' regional trail system, expanding equitable mobility and community connectivity, and addressing climate change by providing multimodal access to and from recreational opportunities, employment areas, single and multi-family housing, and places of commerce and assembly.

I support Three Rivers Park District's request for the funding of the Three Rivers' Regional Trail Network: Connecting Communities through Sustainability, Equity, and Mobility and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this 2022 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 ghuraba393@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Hani Roble
Community Liaison
Learn to Bike

March 31st, 2022

Mr. 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 2022 RAISE Grant Program
Three Rivers' Regional Trail Network: Connecting Communities through Sustainability, Equity, and Mobility

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of Three Rivers Park District's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. Three Rivers' regional trail network is an important amenity in our community, connecting people to work, school, parks and businesses, and providing opportunities for exercise and connecting with nature. The RAISE grant funding will facilitate the completion of this vital community feature.

The project aligns with many of the USDOT's goals including making communities and transportation routes safer, improving accessibility and mobility, expanding equitable community connectivity, and reducing impacts of climate change by providing infrastructure for active transportation and recreation.

As a bike-related business, we are grateful for the regional trail network in our community. We have also partnered with Three Rivers on biking events and races. We see the need for this infrastructure from so many of our community partners. REI's How to Ride a Bike program is our most popular class and we are working with community groups to offer this course and then directly connect them with the critical regional trail network.

I support Three Rivers Park District's request for funding of the Regional Trail Network project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our community. Please give this 2022 RAISE grant proposal your full consideration. If I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me; I can be reached at mswanlu@rei.com or 425-300-4370.

Sincerely,



Mikaela Swanlund
Brand Engagement Specialist
REI Co-op

March 23, 2022

Mr. 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 2022 RAISE Grant Program
Three Rivers' Regional Trail Network: Connecting Communities through Sustainability, Equity, and Mobility

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of Three Rivers Park District's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. Three Rivers' regional trail network is an important amenity in our community, connecting people to work, school, parks and businesses and providing opportunities for exercise and connecting with nature. The RAISE funding will facilitate the completion of this vital community feature.

The project aligns with many of the USDOT's goals including making communities and transportation routes safer, improving accessibility and mobility, expanding equitable community connectivity, and reducing impacts of climate change by providing infrastructure for non-motorized transportation and recreation.

As a partner, we have had the opportunity to work with Three Rivers in connecting community members to nature and helping to learn new outdoor recreation skills. Biking and the regional trail network have been core elements to our partnership and are valued by our community members.

As a direct neighbor to a park in the Three Rivers' Park System in Bloomington, MN our employees have biked thousands of miles on their trails annually on their way to work. I hear again and again that their favorite part of their entire commute is the last 4 miles through Hyland Park. It also happens to my favorite part of my commute as well.

I support Three Rivers Park District's request for funding of the Regional Trail Network project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our community. Please give this 2022 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 605-202-0020 or snesselh@qbp.com

Sincerely,

Seth Nesselhuf
Director of Corporate Social Responsibility
Quality Bicycle Products

March 26, 2022

Mr. 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 2022 RAISE Grant Program
Three Rivers' Regional Trail Network: Connecting Communities through Sustainability, Equity, and Mobility

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I support the Three Rivers Park District's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. Three Rivers' regional trail network offers an AMAZING trail system which connects people to work, school, parks and businesses, and provides opportunities for exercise and connecting with nature. The RAISE grant funding will add SO much to the completion of this vital community feature.

The project supports the USDOT's goals including making communities and transportation routes safer, improving accessibility and mobility, expanding equitable community connectivity, and reducing impacts of climate change by providing infrastructure for active transportation and recreation.

As a bike and run related business, we are immensely grateful for the regional trail network in our community. We have also partnered with Three Rivers on biking events and run/walk races.

Many fear biking and running on the roads, so they actively gravitate to the safety of trails. Our business could not survive w/o the support of Three Rivers to offer nature and health / wellness to those who seek it. The park's trail network continues to link individual parks, towns and businesses together. When the Three Rivers Park builds, "They will come!". But the harsh weather means significant maintenance and cost for Three Rivers, so thank you for the potential support.

You could not do more for health, wellness and community spirit than to support Three Rivers Park District's request for funding of the Regional Trail Network project. I look forward to the infrastructure investment in our community. Please give this 2022 RAISE grant proposal your full consideration. If I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me; gearwest@gearwest.com or cell 763-458-5834.

Sincerely,

Jan Guenther

Owner Gear West Ski & Bike

Gearwest.com

April 3rd, 2022

Mr. 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 2022 RAISE Grant Program
Three Rivers' Regional Trail Network: Connecting Communities through Sustainability, Equity, and Mobility

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of Three Rivers Park District's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. Three Rivers' regional trail network is an important amenity in our community, connecting people to work, school, parks and businesses, and providing opportunities for exercise and connecting with nature. The RAISE grant funding will facilitate the completion of this vital community feature.

The project aligns with many of the USDOT's goals including making communities and transportation routes safer, improving accessibility and mobility, expanding equitable community connectivity, and reducing impacts of climate change by providing infrastructure for active transportation and recreation.

As a bike-related business, we are grateful for the regional trail network in our community. We have also partnered with Three Rivers on biking events and races.

The Three Rivers Park District organization is something my wife and I hold near and dear to our hearts. We both grew up enjoying the many parks and programs that Three Rivers provides. Now in adulthood, we continue to take advantage of the beautiful mountain bike trails, walking trails, campgrounds and lakes that are part of the park system. We are so grateful for it and hope that it can continue to be funded to provide others with unparalleled access to nature and learning.

I support Three Rivers Park District's request for funding of the Regional Trail Network project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our community. Please give this 2022 RAISE grant proposal your full consideration. If I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me; I can be reached at justin@spokesmn.com or at the shop phone number (952) 446-1666

Sincerely

Justin Ratzlaff

Owner

Spokes Bike Shop

April 1, 2022

Mr. 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 2022 RAISE Grant Program
**Three Rivers' Regional Trail Network:
Connecting Communities through Sustainability, Equity, and Mobility**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of the Three Rivers Park District's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. The RAISE funding will facilitate completion of Three Rivers Park District's long-planned multimodal connections in the region. The Project, **Three Rivers' Regional Trail Network: Connecting Communities through Sustainability, Equity, and Mobility**, will fill critical links in the regional trail network, reconstruct trail sections that are beyond their useful life and make other important safety and useability improvements such as striping, regulatory signage, wayfinding, ADA compliant curb cuts and ramps as well as other road crossing enhancements. The Project will result in:

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- One new grade-separated crossing of CSAH 103.

This work and critical investment will result in a more cohesive network of active transportation multimodal alternatives which support a wide range of community needs.

The project aligns with USDOT's goals including addressing critical safety concerns for those traveling along Three Rivers' regional trail system, expanding equitable mobility and community connectivity, and addressing climate change by providing multimodal access to and from recreational opportunities, employment areas, single and multi-family housing, and places of commerce and assembly.

I support Three Rivers Park District's request for the funding of the Three Rivers' Regional Trail Network: Connecting Communities through Sustainability, Equity, and Mobility and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this 2022 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 South Lake Cycle, Excelsior, MN 952-474-3179.

Sincerely,

Mark Schnorr
Owner
South Lake Cycle



Real People. Real Solutions.

7533 Sunwood Drive NW
Suite 206
Ramsey, MN 55303-5119

Ph: (763) 433-2851
Fax: (763) 427-0833
Bolton-Menk.com

March 22, 2022

Mr. 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 2022 RAISE Grant Program
Three Rivers' Regional Trail Network: Connecting Communities through Sustainability, Equity, and Mobility

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of Three Rivers Park District's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. Three Rivers' regional trail network is an important amenity for all of Suburban Hennepin County, connecting people to work, school, parks and businesses, and providing opportunities for exercise and connecting with nature. The RAISE grant funding will facilitate the completion of this vital amenity.

The project aligns with many of the USDOT's goals including making communities and transportation routes safer, improving accessibility and mobility, expanding equitable community connectivity, and reducing impacts of climate change by providing infrastructure for active transportation and recreation.

We have had the opportunity to work with Three Rivers as a partner in connecting community members to nature and helping them learn new outdoor recreation skills. Biking and the regional trail network have been core elements to our partnership and are valued by community members throughout the region.

I support Three Rivers Park District's request for funding of the Regional Trail Network project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in Suburban Hennepin County. Please give this 2022 RAISE grant proposal your full consideration. If I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me; I can be reached at 651-968-7760 or Kevin.Kielb@Bolton-Menk.com.

Sincerely,

BOLTON & MENK, INC.

Kevin P. Kielb, P.E.
Principal Engineer



Building a Better World
for All of Us®

March 31, 2022

Mr. 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 2022 RAISE Grant Program
**Three Rivers' Regional Trail Network: Connecting Communities through Sustainability,
Equity, and Mobility**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of Three Rivers Park District's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. Three Rivers' regional trail network is a vitally important amenity in our community, connecting people to work, schools, parks, and businesses, while providing opportunities for exercise and connecting with nature. The RAISE grant funding will facilitate the completion of this vital community feature.

These projects align with many of the USDOT's goals of making communities and transportation routes safer, improving accessibility and mobility, expanding equitable community connectivity, and reducing impacts of climate change by providing infrastructure for active transportation and recreation.

For the past 20+ years, Short Elliott Hendrickson (SEH®) and the Park District have partnered in implementing recreational infrastructure improvements through planning, design and construction. SEH is an 800-plus employee-owned engineering, architectural, environmental and planning company whose core purpose is Building a Better World for All of Us®. We live this purpose every day by serving our clients. Our work with Three Rivers Park District exemplifies living that purpose. Three Rivers regional trail networks allow our community to get out from behind the screens, breathe fresh air and recreate! Creating safe, healthy and active opportunities for walking, running, rolling, and biking via the regional trail network has increased our community's quality of life. Three Rivers' purpose, regional trail facilities and programming are what make Minnesota, and specifically the Twin Cities region, such a great place to live and work.

I support Three Rivers Park District's request for funding of the Regional Trail Network project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our community. Please give this 2022 RAISE grant proposal your full consideration. If I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me; I can be reached at tmuse@sehinc.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Toby Muse".

Toby Muse, PE (MN)
Principal
Short Elliott Hendrickson (SEH®)

Engineers | Architects | Planners | Scientists

Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc., 10400 Yellow Circle Drive, Suite 500, Minnetonka, MN 55343-9229

952.912.2600 | 800.734.6757 | 888.908.8166 fax | sehinc.com

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March 29, 2022

Mr. 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 2022 RAISE Grant Program
**Three Rivers' Regional Trail Network: Connecting Communities through Sustainability,
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Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

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The project aligns with many of the USDOT's goals including making communities and transportation routes safer, improving accessibility and mobility, expanding equitable community connectivity, and reducing impacts of climate change by providing infrastructure for active transportation and recreation.

We have had the opportunity to work with Three Rivers as a partner in connecting community members to nature and helping them learn new outdoor recreation skills. Biking and the regional trail network have been core elements to our partnership and are valued by our community members.

The projects TKDA has had the privilege to collaborate with Three Rivers Park District staff on range from regional trail designs and ski jump inspections to shoreline restorations and bridge evaluations. As the Client Service Manager, I have been impressed with their organizational commitment to providing quality facilities and programs. I have also witnessed Three Rivers Park District's commitment to better serve underrepresented community groups evolve, as evidenced in their 2040 System Plan.

I support Three Rivers Park District's request for funding of the Regional Trail Network project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our community. Please give this 2022 RAISE grant proposal your full consideration. If I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me; I can be reached at mark.daubenberger@tkda.com or 651.292.4611.

Sincerely,

Mark J. Daubenberger
Senior Registered Engineer - TKDA

April 1, 2022

Mr. 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 2022 RAISE Grant Program
**Three Rivers' Regional Trail Network: Connecting Communities through Sustainability, Equity,
and Mobility**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of Three Rivers Park District's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. Three Rivers' regional trail network provides critical multimodal transportation options in our community, connecting people to work, school, parks and businesses, and providing opportunities for exercise and connecting with nature. The RAISE grant funding will facilitate the completion of this vital community transportation network that provides sustainable and safe infrastructure for people of all ages and abilities.

The project aligns with many of the USDOT's goals including making communities and transportation routes safer, improving accessibility and mobility, expanding equitable community connectivity, and reducing impacts of climate change by providing infrastructure for active transportation and recreation.

We have had the opportunity to work with Three Rivers as a partner in planning and designing the regional trail network within suburban Hennepin County and have seen firsthand the positive impact it has on our communities in respect to providing safe places for people to walk and bike for transportation and recreation purposes. The regional trail network serves as backbone of the active transportation system which spans over 170 miles and makes critical connections between where people live, work and play and between our region's most rural and urbanized communities. We are proud to be a partner to Three Rivers and its efforts to further improve and expand this system so its benefits can continue to be appreciated - especially by those living and working in underserved and under resourced communities.

For the past decade, Three Rivers has focused on planning, designing and constructing their "First Tier Trails." These trails provide safe multimodal transportation options in underserved and under resourced communities in first and second ring suburbs of Minneapolis. These multimodal transportation trails fill critical gaps in the regional trails system that help underserved communities connect to jobs, services, schools and nature. These gaps are some of the most difficult to plan and construct given limited rights of way, disconnected street networks, and overcoming major physical barriers posed by freeways, rail lines and watercourses.

I have helped Three Rivers plan these First Tier Trails over the past 15 years. Three Rivers goes above and beyond the typical planning process to ensure that they maximize participation of underserved communities in the planning process as well as take extra steps to minimize the potential negative effects of retrofitting trails in fully developed

areas. Having worked alongside Three Rivers staff to plan five of the regional trails included in this grant request, we have firsthand knowledge of the extra effort Three Rivers takes in planning these trails in complex suburban environments.

I support Three Rivers Park District's request for funding of the Regional Trail Network project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our greater community. Please give this 2022 RAISE grant proposal your full consideration. If I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me; I can be reached at cschlichting@tooledesign.com or 612-584-4094x501.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ciara Schlichting". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ciara Schlichting, AICP | Director of Operations, Midwestern U.S.

TOOLE DESIGN

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