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**Congress of the United States**  
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AGENCY AND CYBER

February 15, 2024

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

**Re: Support for the City of Appleton's RAISE Grant Application for the Valley Transit Regional Multimodal/Joint Development Project**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write to you in support of the City of Appleton's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. The Downtown Appleton Valley Transit Regional Multimodal/Joint Development Project (Project) would create a new transit facility that improves community connectivity and provides the foundation for development of mixed income residential units.

Serving the community for over 45 years, Valley Transit currently operates transit service throughout nine different communities within the Fox Cities region. The existing Transit Center facility at 100 East Washington Street, Appleton, Wisconsin, was constructed in 1989 and the growing community's needs have exceeded the capacity of the current Transit Center. As the population in the Fox Cities and the rest of my district expands, the need for accessible, reliable transportation is essential.

The City of Appleton performed a Transit Facility Joint Development Master Plan to select the priority facility site, assess the transit center space needs, receive public input on current conditions and needs, and apply this data to develop concept plans for the new transit center and future mixed income housing. Located within the transition between commercial and residential, the Project serves the larger community and provides convenient transit access to the residential, public services and commercial uses in downtown Appleton, Wisconsin.

The Project consists of a new, larger, ground level transit center, developer owned apartments on the upper floors, and a basement level with functions shared by the transit center and residential development. The bus platforms and drive aisles will be fully covered for protection from inclement weather. The bus bays are consolidated within the facility providing safe access for passengers boarding or alighting their bus. Vehicle parking for the Project will be provided by the adjacent, city-owned parking ramp through an above-grade bridge. The Project will meet the conditions of FTA Joint Development which will result in integrated development of transit and non-transit improvements, with

transit facility physically and functionally related to residential development, coordination of public and private investments, and mutual benefit and shared cost among all parties involved.

The Project aligns with USDOT's strategic goals as it improves transit passenger and driver safety, community connectivity, access to jobs and education, and supports a public/private partnership to develop mixed income housing.

In conclusion, I support the City of Appleton's application to the RAISE grant program for the Valley Transit Regional Multimodal/Joint Development Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in Northeast Wisconsin. I urge consideration and approval of this application.

S/F,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'AG', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mike Gallagher  
Member of Congress