



*"...meeting community needs....enhancing quality of life."*

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**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

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February 9, 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 2023 RAISE Grant Program: Downtown Appleton:  
Valley Transit Regional Multimodal/Joint Development Project, Appleton, Wisconsin

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing 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) results in a new transit facility that improves connectivity to a diverse population and provides the foundation for development of mixed income residential units.

Serving the community for over 44 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. As the population in the Fox Cities and beyond expands, the need for accessible, reliable transportation is essential. The current community needs have exceeded the capacity of the current Transit Center.

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.

The City of Appleton, Valley Transit is prepared to provide the 20% local share required for the project. Valley Transit will provide the local match using a combination of funds generated from a joint development agreement, in-kind match, and other fund balances. The completion of the Project will contribute to growth in our region, including the anticipated growth of the City of Appleton and the Fox Cities.

I support the City of Appleton's application for the funding of the Downtown Appleton: Valley Transit Regional Multimodal/Joint Development 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 can be reached at 920-832-6400.

Sincerely,



Jacob A. Woodford  
Mayor



Jeri A. Ohman  
Director of Finance