

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
COMMERCE
HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

February 9, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20509

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am pleased to support the City of Appleton's application for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program through the U.S. Department of Transportation. If awarded, funding will help support the Downtown Appleton: Valley Transit Regional Multimodal/Joint Development Project (Project), resulting in a new transit facility that would improve connectivity for a diverse population and provide 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, constructed in 1989, is in census tract 101 which is designated as an Area of Persistent Poverty and a Historically Disadvantaged Community. According to the City, current community needs have exceeded the capacity of the existing Transit Center.

Specifically, the Project would include 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. Additionally, the bus platforms and drive aisles will be fully covered for protection from inclement weather and the bus bays will be consolidated within the facility providing safe access for passengers boarding or alighting their bus. Finally, according to the City, the Project would meet the conditions of FTA Joint Development, resulting in integrated development of transit and non-transit improvements, with the transit facility physically and functionally related to residential development, coordination of public and private investments, and mutual benefits and shared cost among all Project partners.

I strongly support collaborative proposals that increase transit options for Wisconsin communities, assist in the development of residential housing, and benefit our local economies. For this reason, I respectfully request that full and fair consideration be given to the City of Appleton's RAISE application. Please keep my office updated on the progress of this application at projects_grants@baldwin.senate.gov. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator