



**Wisconsin Department of Transportation**  
Office of the Secretary  
4822 Madison Yards Way, S903  
Madison, WI 53705

**Governor Tony Evers**  
**Secretary Craig Thompson**  
[wisconsin.gov](http://wisconsin.gov)  
Telephone: (608) 266-1114  
FAX: (608) 266-9912  
Email: [sec.exec@dot.wi.gov](mailto:sec.exec@dot.wi.gov)

January 19, 2024

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 2024 RAISE Grant Program: Downtown Appleton: Valley Transit Regional Multimodal/Joint Development Project, Appleton, Wisconsin (Census Tract 101, APP & HDC)

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, constructed in 1989, is in census tract 101 designated both as Areas of Persistent Poverty (APP) and Historically Disadvantaged Communities (HDC). The current community needs have exceeded the capacity of the current Transit Center. The Project will serve the larger community by providing 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. 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. The Project will meet the conditions of FTA Joint Development resulting 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 completion of the Project will contribute to growth in our region.

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 2024 RAISE

Discretionary Grant proposal your full consideration and if I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Thompson', written in a cursive style.

Craig Thompson  
Secretary