



Westside Elementary School

Home of the Wildcats

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9/19/2024

Pete Buttigieg

United States Secretary of Transportation

U.S. Department of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Ave, SE

Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for the FY 24 RCP Discretionary Grant Application – Highway 151 Multimodal Crossing Study for Central Sun Prairie

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing on behalf of Westside Elementary to convey our strong support for the City of Sun Prairie's Highway 151 Multimodal Crossing Study for Central Sun Prairie. Federal funding from the Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Discretionary Grant Program will allow the City to take a comprehensive, holistic approach to addressing the barrier Highway 151 poses to residents in Central Sun Prairie. This project is necessary and critical to the long-term safety, public health, and community development of Central Sun Prairie.

The study will examine the feasibility of multiple options to create a bicycle/pedestrian connection across Highway 151, which creates a physical barrier across the entire City – in particular, in central Sun Prairie which has a higher proportion of low-income and minority households and residents. The Active Transportation Plan, completed in 2023, identified this crossing as one of the highest active transportation infrastructure priorities in the next ten years. Funding would be used to conduct a feasibility study that analyzes preferred alternatives with public participation, an environmental analysis of alternatives, and bringing the preferred alternative up to 30% design. Upon completion of these activities, the City – in close cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation – would then seek discretionary funding either through another federal grant, or through the Greater Madison MPO's administered competitive Surface Transportation Program funds.

The completion of this important project will enhance community development and connectivity for both Central Sun Prairie and the City in general, including for Westside Elementary itself. Many of our students and their families would benefit from this in two ways, increasing access as well as increasing safety.

Please give City of Sun Prairie's RCP application for the Highway 151 Multimodal Crossing Study for Central Sun Prairie the highest consideration for infrastructure funding.

Sincerely,

Nikki Harcus

Principal, Westside Elementary

