

September 5, 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 the Greater Madison MPO 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, as well as for the Greater Madison Region, as a whole. A new bridge or underpass for bicyclists and pedestrians in this area would dramatically improve the ability of people living in or visiting Central Sun Prairie to reach their destinations by bike and foot. The current gap of over a mile between crossings along Highway 151 in this area increases the length and circuitry of trips and reduces the feasibility of travel by bike and foot. This is particularly true for children trying to access elementary schools, parks, and other destinations located on different sides of the highway. Neighborhoods in this area have been identified by the MPO as Environmental Justice Priority Areas due to their relatively high proportions of low-income and minority residents. The proposed bicycle and pedestrian crossing of Highway 151 will provide



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**GREATER MADISON  
METROPOLITAN  
PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

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significant benefits in terms of environmental justice, accessibility, and sustainability.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Alexandra Andros", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Alexandra Andros, AICP  
Director  
Greater Madison MPO