



18 Rickel Road, PO Box 307  
Sun Prairie, WI 53590  
(608) 825-3875  
[www.sunshineplace.org](http://www.sunshineplace.org)

*Neighbors Helping Neighbors... A Sun Prairie Tradition.*

September 12, 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 Sunshine Place, Inc. 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.

Completing this project will boost community development and connectivity for both Central Sun Prairie and the city as a whole, including Sunshine Place. It will also improve safety, especially for the low-income neighborhood we serve. The path would make it easier for residents to access essential services like food assistance and housing support, while also benefiting our volunteers. Many of the middle school students in our neighborhood, primarily from low-income families, walk or bike to school, and this path would provide them with a safer, more accessible route.

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,

*Ann Maastricht*

Ann Maastricht  
Executive Director  
18 Rickel Road  
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