



Chattanooga Area Regional Transportation Authority

April 4, 2022

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Chattanooga Area Regional Transportation Authority, I am writing to communicate my support for the City of Chattanooga as they pursue a grant through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant funding. The City is pursuing this grant to replace the 70-year old Wilcox Boulevard Bridge over the DeButts Railyard, owned and operated by Norfolk Southern Railway, and over additional tracks operated by CSX Railway. The existing structure can no longer support our bus operations, freight trucks or emergency vehicles, does not offer a safe passageway for pedestrians or bicyclists to cross this large rail facility, and continues to rapidly deteriorate.

A replacement structure is vital to the community and to the transportation network at this location. CARTA's primary headquarters and bus depot is located at the base of the Wilcox Bridge. CARTA was forced to reroute all of our bus routes that would normally travel over the Wilcox Bridge to and from downtown, adding additional mileage and time for each and every trip.

Thank you for considering this project by the City for a RAISE grant, and I look forward to one-day seeing a new structure with multimodal facilities at this location become a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa Maragnano". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lisa Maragnano
Executive Director

Chattanooga's Driving Force.

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