



CSX Transportation
500 Water Street, J150
Jacksonville, FL 32202

March 30, 2022

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

Subject: Wilcox Boulevard Bridge 2022 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We are writing in support of Wilcox Boulevard Bridge 2022 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant application from the City of Chattanooga. The replacement of the Wilcox Boulevard Bridge is a key component of the City's Historic River to Ridge Mobility Project.

This project will replace the existing Wilcox Bridge on Wilcox Boulevard. This is one of the busiest east-west connections for the City of Chattanooga and the only National Highway System (NHS) route across the Norfolk Southern Railway (NSR) DeButts Rail Yard and mainline tracks operated by CSX Transportation (CSXT). This 70-year-old bridge originally constructed by the Southern Railroad was load restricted in 2021. The restriction poses significant challenges, as fire trucks and emergency vehicles, public transit buses, and larger trucks are not permitted to use the bridge. This impacts residents and businesses in the 17 River to Ridge neighborhoods, 88 percent of whom qualify as Historically Disadvantaged Communities and Areas of Persistent Poverty.

This project will provide new active transportation infrastructure allowing local residents to safely bike or walk to work at businesses in the Amnicola Highway business park. The City also plans to make at-grade improvements to give citizens access to the Riverwalk Trail along the Tennessee River east of Amnicola Hwy. The proposed new bridge will provide the structural capacity required for fire trucks, the Chattanooga Area Regional Transportation Authority (CARTA) transit buses, and trucks serving business and industries in this area. The updated bridge will provide clearances needed to facilitate additional capacity for freight movement through the NSR DeButts Rail Yard that already processes almost 1,800 rail cars a day and ensure continued safe operation of the CSXT mainline. This project will also continue to support the revitalization and redevelopment successes these neighborhoods, known collectively as the Historic River to Ridge Area, are experiencing.

CSXT has a long history operating within the City of Chattanooga and we support and partner with them on their Historic River to Ridge Mobility Project.

Sincerely,

John Patelli
Head of Regulatory and Federal Affairs

Tony Bellamy
Director Public Projects