

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 19, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write to bring to your attention the competitive application submitted by the City of Kent for funding in the FY22 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program.

I understand the City of Kent, in partnership with Kent State University and the Portage Area Regional Transit Authority, seeks funding for their East Main Street Corridor Improvements project. The City of Kent would use funding to make improvements to a 1-mile section of East Main Street, State Route 59. Rising traffic demands and increased development along East Main Street has led to wear and tear that discourages multimodal use of the corridor. In conjunction with road improvements, the project improvements to crossings and entrances to adjacent neighborhoods as well as a connection between neighborhoods and shopping centers to the north side of Kent to destinations on the south side. The project also entails a tree-lined boulevard and a shared use bike path along with wider sidewalks, new roundabouts, enhanced lighting, new bus pull-offs, and electric vehicle charging stations.

Assistance from your agency would allow the City of Kent to begin improvements to the corridor in an effort to provide more efficient, safe, and accessible transportation for the Kent community which would strengthen the economy and improve quality of life for the region.

If there are any questions, please contact my Grants Coordinator, Kristy Ramey, at (614) 469-6774. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Rob Portman  
United States Senator