February 22, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary

US Department of Transportation Office of the Secretary

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE

Washington DC  20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write in support of the application for the City of Missoula’s Downtown Safety & Multimodal Connectivity RAISE grant application. This request would enable the city to increase safety and connectivity in and around downtown.

Missoula is hoping to adapt its downtown area infrastructure to fit the changing needs of the community. The plan addresses safety and connectivity issues in the downtown area. On the Higgins Avenue corridor, a four to three lane conversion will separate bicyclist and motor vehicles, and create dedicated left-turn lanes. Front and Main Streets will be changed to two-way streets to address safety and circulation issues in the downtown area. This project will fund riverfront trail access from Front and Main and widen the trail. Additionally, an ADA ramp will increase accessibility from the Higgins Bridge to Caras Park.

This project will bring Missoula closer to its multi-modal mode-share goals, which address environmental goals and mitigate the transportation impacts of growth. It will also improve safety by providing dedicated facilities to all road users, and support higher density infill and affordable housing.

The City of Missoula’s Downtown Safety & Multimodal Connectivity project anticipates updating the downtown transportation network and will make a considerable difference to the region’s transportation safety and economic development.

Thank you for your attention to this application. If I can provide any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. I would also appreciate you informing my office of the eventual decision on this application.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester

United States Senator