

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

July 6, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my support for the City of Boston's proposed Blue Hill Avenue Corridor project FY2021 RAISE grant application.

This multi-modal project, with a dedicated transit component, has been in the making for more than a decade. It is driven by close collaboration between civic associations, small-businesses, residents, and city and state public agencies. At its core, the project improves access to quality public transportation for Environmental Justice communities by expanding reliable connections to economic opportunity and community services.

Blue Hill Avenue is one of Boston's primary arteries, linking its most diverse neighborhoods to the heart of the city. It is home to thriving small businesses, places of worship, schools, playgrounds, and residence. However, Blue Hill Avenue too often fails to provide safe, quality modes of transportation for all those who live and work along it. Commute times for residents in this area are among the longest of any in the Boston. Enhancing access along Blue Hill Avenue is a priority for the City of Boston as it strives to address inequities and disinvestment in its neighborhoods. Sustainable transportation options, particularly for those disproportionately reliant on public transit, are key to its efforts.

The application shows how the project will make Blue Hill Avenue safer for all modes of transportation; consider climate change; improve transportation choices; provide reliable and efficient public transportation; and create attractive public spaces. Pedestrian-friendly crossings and sidewalks, bike facilities including bike share stations, a healthy tree canopy, and public art by local artists are all incorporated in the design.

The City of Boston has started to install small-scale early-action improvements along the corridor, such as a youth-based artists program, to set the stage for the complete redesign of the corridor. But to change the trajectory of this corridor and the lives of those who rely on it, I respectfully ask USDOT to give this application your full consideration.

If you have any questions or need any further information, please contact my District Director, Eric White at 617-850-0040 or [Eric.White@mail.house.gov](mailto:Eric.White@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,



Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress