

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

May 31, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write in support of the application submitted by Suffolk County, New York for funding from the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program through the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT). This funding will be used to support the design of a 50-mile hike-bike trail as well as contributes towards the creation of the Long Island Greenway, a 120-mile plus bike and pedestrian extension of the Empire State Trail.

The applicant is Suffolk County, New York, located on the eastern half of Long Island, with over 1.5 million residents. This trail would be located along the South Fork of Long Island, spanning from Riverhead to Montauk, two hubs in the county. Montauk Point, the eastern tip of New York State and tourist destination, will be connected with Niagara Falls once this project is completed.

The requested funding will be used to bring a 50-mile hike-bike trail to shovel-ready status as well as contribute to the larger 120-mile plus Long Island Greenway project, extending the Empire State Trail. These projects create more livable communities through the revitalization of downtown areas and the creation of transportation alternatives, improve public health by increasing access to recreational opportunities, and represent a meaningful equity investment in providing safe infrastructure to diminish reliance on private vehicle ownership. As recently recognized by USDOT's Thriving Communities Program, the proposed trail will connect three Transportation Disadvantage Census Tracts to a larger bikeway network.

I ask that you please give this application your full consideration. If you have any questions or desire further information, please do not hesitate to contact my staff member, Abi Jimenez, at (202) 224-4451.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator