



Bastrop Economic
Development Corporation
301 Hwy 71 W, Suite 214
Bastrop, TX 78602
(512) 332-8870
bastropedc.org

March 21, 2022

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

Re: RAISE Grant Application
Colorado River Pedestrian Crossing "Old Iron Bridge" in Bastrop, Texas

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of the Bastrop Economic Development Corporation, I am writing in support of the application for a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant for the rehabilitation of the pedestrian bridge over the Colorado River, also known as the Old Iron Bridge, in the City of Bastrop, Texas. The proposed improvements to the Old Iron Bridge are both necessary and urgent to increase safety for vulnerable roadway users, increase mobility and connectivity for non-motorized users, increase equity and accessibility for travelers, and improve resiliency and environmental sustainability. The rehabilitation of the Bridge would also contribute to the economic growth of Bastrop's Main Street and restore an iconic historic resource key to Bastrop's identity.

The Old Iron Bridge is an important multi-modal connection across the Colorado River, linking two sides of the City and providing a gateway to the Historic Commercial District. The Bridge serves as an integral part of the City's efforts to increase multi-modal travel, improve safety and connectivity, reduce energy consumption, and preserve the environmental integrity of the area, while enhancing the economic vitality of the City.

The project contributes to meeting the strategic goals for the region of safety, mobility, stewardship, economic development, equity, and innovation. I appreciate your support of projects in Texas that lead to further investment in our communities, and projects that will create and retain jobs, improve the quality of life in our state, and preserve our culture. I strongly urge your support of full funding for the project.

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to contact me should you have questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Spencer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ron" and last name "Spencer" clearly legible.

Ron Spencer
Chair of the Board of Directors
Bastrop Economic Development Corporation