



Capital Area Council of Governments

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March 22, 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: Colorado River Pedestrian Crossing "Old Iron Bridge" in Bastrop, Texas -RAISE grant

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Rehabilitation of this bridge, a historic landmark as well as a component of the transportation routes that move people in and out of downtown Bastrop, is necessary to ensure safety, connectivity, and mobility so the RAISE grant application process is timely.

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.

As the regional economic development district funded by the Economic Development Administration to provide a five-year strategic plan to guide communities toward economic resiliency and prosperity, our agency's goals align with projects that support historic downtowns and the connectivity that enhances their opportunities for success therefore we strongly support the City of Bastrop's application for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity funding.

We applaud the work Bastrop leadership and staff have done to support the small businesses in the Main Street area and the jobs they create as well as the ongoing efforts to sustain its infrastructure like this iconic bridge, the gateway to the City's historic district and part of the City's identity.

Sincerely,

Betty Voights
Executive Director