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27TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

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Congress of the United States
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April 4, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As the Congressman for the 27th Congressional District of Texas, 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 Bastrop 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 Bastrop.

The project contributes to meeting the strategic goals for the region of safety, mobility, stewardship, economic development, equity, and innovation. I appreciate the Department of Transportation's 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.

Thank you in advance for your full and fair consideration of the City of Bastrop's grant application. Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office if I can answer any questions or be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Michael Cloud
Member of Congress
27th Congressional District of Texas