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April 4, 2022

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

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of the City of Bastrop's application for a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant for the rehabilitation of the Old Iron Bridge, a pedestrian bridge over the Colorado River. The proposed improvements to the bridge are both urgent and necessary 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. Rehabilitation of the Old Iron Bridge would contribute to the economic growth of Bastrop's Main Street, as well as restore an iconic and 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 of Bastrop. It provides a gateway to the Historic Commercial District and 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; all while enhancing the economic vitality of the city. This crucial project will contribute to the realization of the region's strategic goals that include safety, mobility, stewardship, economic development, equity, and innovation.

I appreciate your support of projects such as these, which lead to further investment in our communities and projects that will create and retain jobs, improve the quality of life in Texas, and preserve our culture. I strongly urge your support of this important project.

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

Sincerely,



Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress