



# SARAH ECKHARDT

STATE SENATOR • DISTRICT 14

April 4, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

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 multimodal 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, 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.

CAPITOL OFFICE:

P.O. Box 12068 • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711-2068 • OFFICE: 512.463.0114 • FAX: 512.463.5949

[sarah.eckhardt@senate.texas.gov](mailto:sarah.eckhardt@senate.texas.gov)



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, appearing to read 'SEK' with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the bottom right.

Senator Sarah Eckhardt