

United States Senate

April 25, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write to extend my strong support for the RAISE Grant application submitted by the Alabama cities of Southside and Rainbow City. If approved, this grant will be combined with state funds from the Alabama Department of Transportation to finance the construction of a new bridge connecting the two municipalities. This is the third time that these cities have submitted a grant funding application for this essential project, including two RAISE Grant applications and one BUILD Grant application.

As a former mayor, you understand better than anyone the time and money that goes into applying for highly competitive federal grants like the RAISE Grant. Southside and Rainbow City are small but growing municipalities with a combined population of just under 20,000. They have expended substantial resources seeking this grant over the course of three application cycles. The community support for this project is strong, and the area's continued economic growth is contingent on the construction of this bridge.

The bridge currently in existence is well over 80 years old and hazardous. It funnels two lanes of heavy traffic into one lane, leading to substantial traffic backups. This congestion results in increased vehicle emissions and slows the work of first responders who use the bridge on a daily basis. Accidents on the bridge are frequent, and a number have resulted in fatalities.

Southside and Rainbow City have experienced substantial growth in recent years. A number of nearby major manufacturing facilities that employ thousands of Alabamians utilize the bridge daily, and multiple future economic development projects will only come to fruition if a new bridge is constructed.

Southside and Rainbow City have been incredibly thorough and thoughtful in their plans for this project. They have engaged with individuals on your staff on many occasions and even traveled to Washington to meet in person with Deputy Assistant Secretary of Transportation for Intergovernmental Affairs Charles Small. If a RAISE Grant is secured, the dilapidated existing structure would be turned into a pedestrian bridge with river-side greenspace for local community members to enjoy. The new bridge would facilitate economic growth not only in

Southside and Rainbow City, but also in surrounding rural communities, many of which have large minority and underserved populations.

I would appreciate your staff's prompt review of the RAISE Grant application submitted by Southside and Rainbow City for this project of vital local importance. Their application has my full support. Should your staff need additional information, please encourage them to contact Jordan Mills on my team at: Jordan_Mills@tuberville.senate.gov. I thank you in advance for your consideration of this project's merits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Tommy Tuberville". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tommy" and last name "Tuberville" clearly distinguishable.

Tommy Tuberville
United States Senator