



United States Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

March 29, 2022

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

RE: Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Letter of Support for City of Salina, Kansas Smoky Hill River Bridges and Connectivity Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write to you today to express my support for the City of Salina's Smoky Hill River Bridges and Connectivity Project application for funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program. This project would not only rebuild crumbling infrastructure within the city but improve the quality of life and positively impact the city's opportunities for future economic development.

The City of Salina has been working to restore the inner-city river channel since 2016. During that time, it has become the city's largest renewal project with local tax dollars being allocated to help with the rebuilding process. The city's first goal is to repair and restore multiple bridges along the river channel, bringing outside investment and economic opportunity to an area of the city that has remained blighted and underutilized. Additionally, the infrastructure improvements will mitigate flooding and will advance a long-term vision for the revitalization of the Smoky Hill River recreational area. This project is vitally important to the city's growth economically, ecologically, and recreationally.

The transportation investment in this project will help transform the City of Salina into a center for economic prosperity, create high-paying jobs, improve the safety of existing transportation systems, and expand multimodal transportation infrastructure. With local funding already in place, the city is poised to transform this area into a destination for all members of the community, including the Historically Disadvantaged Communities and Areas of Persistent Poverty within Salina.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of the city's request for funding. My office stands ready to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger W. Marshall".

Roger Marshall, M.D.
U.S. Senator