



February 23, 2023

Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington DC, 20590

Re: 2023 Rebuilding America's Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Grant Program  
Application for East Capitol Street Mobility and Safety Improvements Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I understand that the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) has applied to the United States Department of Transportation for the 2023 Rebuilding America's Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant to advance the East Capitol Street Safety and Mobility Improvements Project in the District of Columbia. The Washington Area Bicyclist Association enthusiastically supports this project.

The East Capitol Street Safety and Mobility Improvements Project will provide upgrades to intersections and streets to improve safety and access for all users of East Capitol Street, including the Benning Road intersection, the Central Avenue intersection, the Benning Stoddert Recreation Center, and the Maryland border at Southern Avenue. Key improvements include over four miles of bike lanes; floating bus stops offset from the curb; curb extensions to enhance visibility; enhanced traffic signal timing; high-visibility crosswalks; HAWK (High-Intensity Activated crosswalk) beacons; and safer geometric reconfigurations of intersections.

East Capitol St has long been a barrier to safe movement in DC's Ward 7. The road's multi-lane design, long uninterrupted blocks, and angled intersections encourages speeding and enables drivers to make high-speed turns. Long distances between traffic signals encourage pedestrians to cross mid-block or at unsignalized crosswalks across six lanes of speeding traffic. And the street is far too stressful to safely ride a bike, even for short distances, making trips by bike near the corridor

impractically long and winding. Without major changes to the design of East Capitol St, the alarming pattern of high-speed crashes and pedestrian fatalities is likely to continue.

With the support of this RAISE grant, WABA believes DDOT's project will be a significant step in improving mobility and safety on East Capitol St. It will have positive effect on the quality of life for the residents of the District of Columbia as a whole, will improve equitable access to transit services for historically disadvantaged communities, connect residential centers with jobs, schools, and activity centers, improve safety for all modes of travel, and aligns with the Biden Administration's stated goals improving the safety of our transportation networks.

The Washington Area Bicyclist Association empowers people to ride bikes, build connections, and transform places. With the support of more than 6,000 members in the Washington Region, we envision a just and sustainable transportation system where walking, biking, and transit are the best ways to get around. We advocate for new and better bicycling infrastructure and policies, build community through events and outreach, and educate thousands of youth and adults to be more comfortable, confident bicyclists.

WABA encourages the Department to approve DDOT's application for funding for the East Capitol Street Safety and Mobility Improvements Project.

Sincerely,

Garrett Hennigan  
Organizing Manager  
Washington Area Bicyclist Association