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

November 29, 2022

RE: Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG) SS4A Proposal

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am honored to write in support the application submitted by the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG) under the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program for Federal Fiscal Year 2022 for an Action Planning Grant. The funding from the grant will benefit both the Lower Connecticut River Valley region and the State of Connecticut as a whole through a safer and more reliable transportation network, allowing a positive economic impact to these communities.

RiverCOG is seeking federal funds under the SS4A program for an Action Planning Grant to identify potential safety improvements throughout the region. The COG is already in the process of creating their new regional Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2023-2050 and a corridor study to identify a connection between the two longest multi-use greenways in the state, which will be a component of the East Coast Greenway. The Connecticut DOT has already completed some safety planning work last year, but it does not meet the standards of a Safe Street for All Action Plan. These proposals in conjunction with a Regional Action Plan will allow RiverCOG for the first time to create a coordinated and prioritized program of safety investments for the region.

This Regional Safety Action Plan will continue RiverCOG's commitment to nourishing their vision of a more vibrant, equitable and sustainable community. Having a well-maintained transportation network that is accessible to all citizens regardless of socio-economic class is paramount to RiverCOG's vision. Improved safety will increase the standards of life and encourage the use of alternative transportation that will in turn increase access to support services and facilitate economic growth. The increased use of alternative transportation will also contribute to a decrease in CO2 emissions from cars and diminish the strain on our roadway network.

I ask for your full and fair consideration of the merit of this proposal and the immense positive impact it poses for the region. I thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH D. COURTNEY

Member of Congress