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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

February 29, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write in support of King County's application to the *U.S. Department of Transportation's* Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program for the "Closing the Eastrail Gap: I-90 Segment Project."

This project would improve community safety, climate change impacts, and quality of life in the Puget Sound region by improving multi-modal connections, meeting the infrastructure demands for a growing and economically active region, and providing greenspace, respite, and recreation for the community.

The project would complete the final gap in the 26-mile southern segment of the Eastrail regional trail and reconnect communities by retrofitting the I-90 steel bridge, which spans sixteen lanes of highway. Additionally, the project would build nearly two miles of new paved trail, which upon completion, would provide safe and accessible non-motorized travel between fast-growing employment hubs, transit, and one of Washington State's most important manufacturing areas. The trail segment would create a seamless link to the Mountain to Sound Greenway Trail – a critical link in the expansive regional trail system.

The Eastrail is a partnership success story, with jurisdictions, nonprofits, businesses, transit agencies, and utilities within King County investing \$265 million over the last 15 years to acquire the corridor and construct existing trail segments. My office has also secured Community Project Funding in a previous fiscal year to support the build out of the Eastrail. These investments have decreased the region's emissions by providing a safe and welcoming commuting alternative and endless recreational opportunities.

For these reasons, I encourage your full and fair consideration of King County's grant application. Please send along any updates on this letter and/or grant application to Rachel.Alger@mail.house.gov in my office.

Sincerely,



Suzan K DelBene
Member of Congress, WA-01