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# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

February 13, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write in support of the City of Woodinville's application to the *U.S. Department of Transportation's* "Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity" (RAISE) Program for \$5 million to complete the entire design, planning, and permitting portion of Woodinville's two-mile Eastrail multi-use corridor. Planning dollars would allow the City to prepare for additional housing and economic development projects, and move swiftly into the design and construction phases.

With this application, the City hopes to fully leverage millions of local, regional, state, and federal dollars that have already been invested into this regional rail-to-trail corridor, including \$2.5 million in Community Project Funding that I secured in the FY23 omnibus. This project creates an opportunity to begin connecting the 42-mile Eastrail to other regional trails and could expand local economic opportunities beyond Woodinville to the neighboring communities of Bellevue, Kirkland, and Redmond which would all be connected by trail upon completion. If funded, the project would allow the City to develop a vital missing link in a regional transportation network that will both support agritourism and climate change goals while providing an alternative to car-based transportation in east King County.

Woodinville is a major hub in the wine industry, contributing to Washington's status as the second largest wine producer in North America. Woodinville is home to around 13,000 residents and hosts nearly 800,000 tourists annually. The City's population continues to grow, with more than 3,700 new residents expected to call Woodinville home over the next four years with the completion of new mixed-use and residential construction downtown. According to the City, this is around a 30 percent population growth.

The Eastrail Corridor is also adjacent to regional highways and incorporates the City's portion of a 42-mile-long dedicated bicycle and pedestrian trail connecting Woodinville residents to large employers and regional light rail. The Eastrail Corridor in Woodinville is poised for smart development that enhances transit access, creates multi-income housing, and supports existing and future regional goals.

For the above reasons, I ask for your full and fair consideration of the City of Woodinville's application to the RAISE grant program. For any questions and notifications related to this grant application, please reach out to [Rachel.Alger@mail.house.gov](mailto:Rachel.Alger@mail.house.gov) in my district office.

Sincerely,



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Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress, WA-01