



EAST-WEST GATEWAY
Council of Governments

Creating Solutions Across Jurisdictional Boundaries

June 8, 2021

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

RE: Brickline Greenway - Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity [RAISE] Grant application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I strongly support the RAISE application being submitted by Great Rivers Greenway. The application is to extend the Brickline Greenway from the Grand MetroLink Station to Fairgrounds Park. Funds from this grant will be used to build neighborhood-based multimodal infrastructure and community spaces as part of a broader, regional network of greenways, and expand access to mass transit. This application is consistent with the guiding principles in the St. Louis region's long range transportation plan, *Connected2045*, by supporting public transportation, supporting neighborhoods and communities, providing more transportation choices, and protecting air quality and environmental assets.

Although this project is not identified in the region's current Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the East-West Gateway Council of Governments (Council), the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the St. Louis region, will amend the TIP if the application is selected to receive funding.

The Council recognizes the importance of local priorities and the need to implement them. Given the present level of federal and state transportation funds available to the St. Louis region, it is unlikely that implementation of such an important project will proceed without an infusion of funds dedicated specifically to the project.

Sincerely,

James M. Wild
Executive Director

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