

April 7, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: RAISE Grant Application – Marshalltown Iowa: “Puerta de Marshalltown” the Highway 14 Corridor Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Please accept this letter to show our support of the RAISE Transportation Grant application being submitted by the City of Marshalltown. Kansas State University Technical Assistance to Brownfields (KSU TAB) program has been working with the City of Marshalltown over the past years. During that time Marshalltown has developed a Brownfields Program and secured both State and Federal grant funding to assist with environmental assessments, clean-up, community engagement, and planning efforts. Much of the work completed during this time has focused on the Highway 14 corridor and adjacent downtown district.

The RAISE funding will aid the community in redeveloping the Highway 14 corridor. There are numerous brownfields sites along the corridor and we know that the barriers to development increase when environmental hazards are either present or perceived to be an issue. Improving the roadway, utilities, pedestrian access, and landscaping in the area will be a benefit and catalyst for further redevelopment and community revitalization. We are familiar with the needs Marshalltown has and the proposed improvements to the Highway 14 Corridor will have a significant impact on this community.

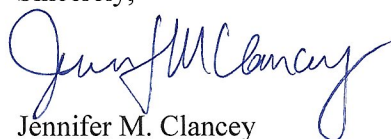
As the northern gateway (or door) to Marshalltown, the naming of this project, Puerta de Marshalltown, symbolizes the strong, diverse community that lies ahead. A community that has persevered through an EF-3 tornado in 2018, COVID-19, and a 2020 Derecho wind event, with the goal of rebuilding and strengthening the community. The Highway 14 Corridor serves as one of the primary gateways into the City of Marshalltown. This major arterial roadway provides a key connection to the City’s downtown and runs directly through the heart of the community reaching residential, commercial, and industrial properties.

Marshalltown is a designated Iowa Great Place community and projects such as this one contribute to providing economic development opportunities which rely on quality infrastructure. Marshalltown is dedicated to improving the corridor with a focus on sustainability and resiliency. The coordination of State and Federal programs to improve the community is something that Marshalltown excels at and supporting this RAISE application will aid in the ongoing recovery efforts.

As the City of Marshalltown continues to rebuild from multiple disasters in a three-year period, we are proud to be a partner in their efforts related to brownfields and recommend that this project be selected for RAISE funding.

Should you have questions, please contact me by email at jmclancey@ksu.edu or by phone at (319) 270-3394.

Sincerely,



Jennifer M. Clancey
KSU TAB Services Coordinator for EPA Region 7