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April 8, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Please accept this letter to show my support of the RAISE Transportation Grant application being submitted by the City of Marshalltown, Iowa. I am 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.

This project not only improves transportation safety for the residents, employees, and visitors by providing the appropriate driving lanes and sidewalks, it also enhances the quality of life attributes that excite people about living in a community such as aesthetic streetscape improvements and improved access to amenities and services. 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 safety, sustainability and resiliency. A recent EPA Brownfields Assessment grant was awarded to the City which will include an assessment and planning focus on this corridor. 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, I am proud to recommend that this project be selected for RAISE funding.

I would appreciate your thorough and expeditious consideration for Marshalltown, in accordance with all rules and regulations. Please forward your response to Emily Gaard in my Des Moines office at 733 Federal Building, 210 Walnut Street, Des Moines, IA 50309 or by phone at (515) 284-4574. Emily may also be reached by email at Emily_Gaard@ernst.senate.gov.

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Sincerely,


Joni K. Ernst
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JE/EG