

To: Transportation Committee
From: CRCOG Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Coordination Team
Date: March 10, 2023, for March 20, 2023 Meeting
Subject: Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Updates

Please see the following updates provided in advance of the March 20, 2023 Transportation Committee Meeting.

U.S. DOT Discretionary Grant Programs

Safe Streets and Roads for All Discretionary Grant Program (SS4A), Round 2:

- Staff will use feedback received during the Round 1 SS4A Implementation Grant debrief session with U.S. DOT to refine the application submission strategy for Round 2.

Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)

- CRCOG issued letters of support for the following applications submitted for Round 2:
 - City of Hartford, Main Street North Streetscape Improvements.
 - Planning Grant Joint Application by Towns of Wethersfield and Rocky Hill for a corridor study of the Silas Deane Highway (CT Route 99).

BIL Webpage

- Visit CRCOG's BIL/IIJA Webpage: <https://crcog.org/ija-bil/> for information about programs of interest in the region.

A reminder, CRCOG seeks information from Member Towns about what federal discretionary grant programs you or other agencies/entities in your town have applied for or are interested in pursuing. Please contact [Elizabeth Sanderson](#) with this information, or if you have questions, comments, or concerns.

February 21, 2023

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

Re: **Hartford Main Street North Streetscape Improvements RAISE Grant**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) is pleased to support the city of Hartford's 2023 RAISE grant application and proposal for Main Street North Streetscape Improvements. By incorporating best practices that embrace current design standards, the project envisions upgrades to roadways, signals, lighting, and bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure to bring this important commercial corridor to a state-of-good-repair.

As the Executive Director of the Capitol Region Council of Governments, I know that key transportation infrastructure improvements in core city neighborhoods produce benefits which extend far beyond their immediate environs to strengthen and bolster the entire region.

Project plans call for installation of upgraded bus shelters at prominent locations along Main Street with real-time schedule and vehicle location technology. Bus travel times will be improved, and new bus stop designs will enhance accessibility and ease of boarding while introducing signal pre-emption for buses.

This initiative will also include numerous safety improvements, including protected bike lanes, pedestrian-scale lighting, more accessible sidewalks, and crosswalks that meet ADA requirements, as well as bump-outs to reduce curb-to-curb travel distance. Furthermore, by replacing existing diesel buses with electric buses, the project will help to reduce health impacts associated with emissions. Diversion of trips from auto to transit and non-motorized transportation will be critical to improving air quality, which has been a long-standing issue in Hartford.

The project is sited within a designated Area of Persistent Poverty and the federally designated North Hartford Promise Zone (NHPZ), aiming to provide greater access to jobs, healthcare, recreation and social services in this historically underserved community. Long-running racial disparities caused by historic highway investments have isolated this neighborhood from the rest of the City and the Connecticut River, and this plan will help to address those disparities.

The initiative will facilitate creation of new jobs during its construction phase, with a commitment to local labor, while also improving access to local and regional employment opportunities for

neighborhood residents—a significant economic benefit to the entire Hartford metropolitan area and the approximately one million people that live in it. CRCOG looks forward to continuing our partnership with the City of Hartford to cooperatively advance this effort and ensure its placement in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and CRCOG's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

I appreciate your favorable consideration of this proposal. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I might be of any assistance in your review of the application.

Sincerely,



Matthew W. Hart
Executive Director

Matt W. Hart

Digitally signed by Matthew W. Hart
DN: cn=Matthew W. Hart, o=CRCOG, email=mhart@crkog.org
Date: 2020.02.11 11:29:10-0500

CC: Mayor L. Bronin, City of Hartford
P. Sucato, Connecticut Department of Transportation
CRCOG Policy Board & Transportation Committee
R. Aloise, Director of Transportation Planning
C. Radzins, Deputy Director of Transportation Planning

February 21, 2023

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

**Re: FY2023 RAISE Planning Grant
Silas Deane Highway in Wethersfield and Rocky Hill, Connecticut**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

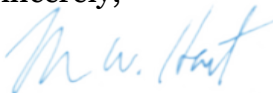
The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) is pleased to support the towns of Wethersfield and Rocky Hill's joint application for FY2023 RAISE planning grant funding to conduct a corridor study of the Silas Deane Highway (CT Route 99). The RAISE Grant Program is intended to help communities fund transportation projects that have significant local or regional impact and will improve safety and equity. This grant would enable the Towns of Wethersfield and Rocky Hill to work closely together to identify the most appropriate and effective improvements to reconnect the communities surrounding the Silas Deane Highway while revitalizing the quality of life and economic opportunity in the area in a sustainable manner.

Enhancing the appeal of the Silas Deane Highway is a long-standing critical concern for both communities. This grant would fund planning activities including a full multimodal traffic corridor study, a comprehensive public engagement and input process, and a concept design for improvements along the Silas Deane Highway. This initiative would produce plans to develop the Silas Deane Highway into a safe and efficient corridor for all modes of travel.

The Silas Deane Highway corridor study has the potential to address critical needs in this important regional corridor. CRCOG looks forward to continuing our partnership with the towns of Wethersfield and Rocky Hill to cooperatively advance this study and ensure its placement in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and CRCOG's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

CRCOG strongly supports this application, and we urge you to give it strong consideration for funding. Please feel free to contact me with any questions concerning this letter of support.

Sincerely,



Matthew W. Hart
Executive Director

Matt W. Hart

Digitally signed by Matt W. Hart
DN: c=US, ou=Capitol Region Council of Governments, email=M.Hart@CRCOG.org, cn=Matthew W. Hart
Date: 2023.02.21 10:14:10 -0500

cc: Town Manager F. Presley, Wethersfield
Town Manager R. Carpentino, Rocky Hill
CRCOG Policy Board & Transportation Committee
R. Aloise, Director of Transportation Planning
C. Radzins, Deputy Director of Transportation Planning