

October 6, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grants Program Hartford Traffic Signal Pilot Program

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) is excited to endorse the City of Hartford's request for FY 2023 SMART grant funding for the Traffic Signal Pilot Program. CRCOG is committed to facilitating a comprehensive transportation planning process that considers all modes of transportation and supports community development and social goals as the region's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

Hartford's SMART Traffic Signal Pilot Program presents a significant opportunity that will benefit the city as well as other municipalities in our region. This initiative will allow for the deployment, testing, monitoring, review, and evaluation of new cost-effective traffic signal technology. By participating in this program, Hartford and its surrounding communities can benefit from the advancements in traffic signal management and contribute to the overall improvement of transportation systems in the region.

In 2022, CRCOG, in partnership with CTtransit and the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT), completed its Transit Priority Corridors Study, also known as Metro Hartford Rapid Routes (the Study). Hartford's SMART Stage 1 Planning and Prototyping Grant will implement key recommendations of the Study, improving reliability and reducing delays for transit riders by upgrading traffic signal controller units using innovative technology. Stage 1 is located along a section of Main Street, and is within the North Hartford Promise Zone, and an Opportunity Zone. The majority of Hartford is a designated Justice40 Community, per the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST), and this project will bring much needed investment to the community and offer opportunities to scale-up benefits through future investments.

Specifically, this project will address deficiencies in transportation and transit by upgrading antiquated traffic signal controller units with modern controllers, installing video detection systems and Field Monitoring Units (FMU) at existing signalized intersections. The FMUs will provide system communications to city-owned traffic signals without the need for a hardwire connection (fiber optic or copper cable). Innovative traffic signal controllers and FMUs will support remote, real-time, direct

access to the controller database, allowing remote fine tuning of signal timings, coordination of plans and other various signal control settings to address safety and emergency response concerns.

In summary, our organization believes that this Project will not only improve our capital city's transportation infrastructure but will also contribute to the overall safety, efficiency, equity, and quality of life of the region. I appreciate your review and urge you to support this application for the reasons outlined above.

Sincerely,

Matthew W. Hart
Executive Director

Cc: Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin
CRCOG Policy Board & Transportation Committee
R. Aloise, Director of Transportation Planning, CRCOG
C. Radzins, Deputy Director of Transportation Planning, CRCOG