

February 21, 2024

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

**RE: RAISE FY2024 Planning Grant Application – University of Connecticut Active Transportation Plan Implementation Phase 1**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

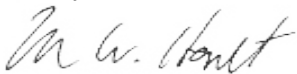
The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) is pleased to support the University of Connecticut's application to the U.S. Department of Transportation FY2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program. The application requests RAISE planning funds to complete planning, design, and construction documents for priority projects identified in the University's Active Transportation Plan, dated October 2022.

The project is geared towards enhancing transportation safety, mobility, and promoting an active and connected community at the Storrs Campus. These plans originated from recommendations from the Active Transportation Plan, which was developed with traffic studies, community participation, and strategies for project development. The University of Connecticut maintains a pedestrian-focused campus that has expanded significantly within its borders over the past three decades, changing circulation patterns and increasing conflicts between active transportation modes and vehicular traffic. This project will provide multi-use access to buildings and services within the campus core and connect people from remote parking and housing through a safe, coherent, and cohesive active transportation network that supplements the robust shuttle service. This network will decrease vehicle miles traveled within campus and provide improved connectivity with the Town of Mansfield. The project is innovative and complex and will improve the lives of the 30,000 plus student body, faculty and staff, and visitors.

If awarded, CRCOG will work with the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) to place this project in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and the regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

We greatly appreciate your consideration and respectfully request that you fund the full request of the application.

Sincerely,



Matthew W. Hart

CC: John Carrington, Director of Public Works, Town of Mansfield  
Antonia Moran, Mayor of Mansfield  
CRCOG Policy Board & CRCOG Transportation Committee