

February 20, 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 – Monteith Drive Extension over the Farmington River

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

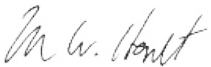
The Capitol Region Council of Governments is pleased to support the Town of Farmington Connecticut's application to the U.S. Department of Transportation FY2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program. The application requests RAISE planning funds to perform preliminary design and planning activities needed to complete a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document, for a proposed extension of Monteith Drive over the Farmington River.

The project aims to improve transportation connectivity, ease traffic congestion, and enhance system resilience by adding a new bridge over the Farmington River. This project will address limited north-south connections, benefiting key locations on both sides of the river and improving emergency response times in Farmington. The new bridge will offer a route for various modes of transport and help reduce congestion at existing river crossings. Designing the new Montieth Drive bridge to withstand higher flood levels will enhance system resilience during major flooding events.

CRCOG's Farmington Connectivity Study, scheduled to be completed in 2024, specifically addresses this project. This Montieth Drive Extension project is also cited in CRCOG's approved Unified Planning Work Program and the Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2023-2050, adopted by CRCOG Policy Board on April 26, 2023. The project is also included in CT DOT's air quality conformity analysis to ensure it is compatibility for future State Transportation Improvement Programs.

These recent planning activities funded by the CTDOT and/or CRCOG have supported the Town of Farmington's efforts over many years to provide a much-needed additional river crossing. The recent traffic analysis and outreach to various federal, state, and local stakeholder groups completed under CRCOG's Farmington Connectivity Study, have shown continued support to move this project forward. We thank you for your consideration and respectfully request that you fund the full request detailed in the application.

Sincerely,



Matthew W. Hart

CC: J. Capodiferro, K. Blonski, R. Arnold - Town of Farmington
CRCOG Policy Board & Transportation Committee