

STATE OF INDIANA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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COMMERCE, SMALL BUSINESS AND
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EMPLOYMENT, LABOR AND PENSIONS
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The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue NE
Washington, D.C. 20590 – 0001

On behalf of Indiana House District 12, I am writing to express support for the Town of Munster's application for a RAISE grant through the United States Department of Transportation. Approval of this grant will allow for funding of the Ridge Road Complete Street Project, which would allow for the \$21 million expansion and redevelopment of Munster's most heavily traveled corridor. This project will reconfigure traffic lanes on Ridge Road from five lanes to three lanes, addition of a 10' multi-use path on the south side of the street, planting 255 trees, and space for pedestrian seating.

This project will cultivate the creation of a new prosperous environment for the town of Munster, which is in desperate need of such a development. The Ridge Road project will allow for the \$890 million redevelopment of the NICTD's commuter rail, with daily ridership estimates at 10,000 by 2037. Expansion of public transportation will benefit vulnerable populations of the region, especially those who do not have a car or rely on public transit to access economic opportunities.

Ridge Road is the main connection between Munster and Lansing, Illinois. Lansing is an economically disadvantaged community and lacks transportation options as determined by the USDOT. With this new construction, we can secure a higher quality of life for those who use the corridor, particularly for those burdened by the high cost of transportation and dependence on automobiles.

I also want to note that this project represents exactly the sort of transit-oriented development critical to the long-term success of our state's economic engine. The project will also provide better access to destinations such as downtown Chicago for those with mobility challenges. The Ridge Road project is something long hoped and dreamed for by the community of Muster. We are excited to see this plan come to fruition.

Thank you again for your consideration of this request. I want to reiterate my strong support for the approval of the Ridge Road Complete Street Project RAISE grant application that will provide the type of infrastructure that will benefit Munster and the surrounding areas well into the future.



Mike Andrade
State Representative
House District – 12