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April 13, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue Southeast  
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write in strong support of a proposal submitted by the Town of Munster for the consideration of funding offered through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program.

As referenced in its proposal, Munster intends to advance its proposed Ridge Road Complete Streets Project, which will complement the South Shore Line's West Lake Corridor currently under construction. This unique and effective reimagining of Ridge Road, a legacy corridor in the region, into a vibrant pedestrian-friendly destination that effectively utilizes the new West Lake Corridor station that will be operational in 2025 and will be the access point not only to residents as it provides a direct rail connection to the City of Chicago, but also to visitors who are drawn to the town given the economic development proposed within the project corridor. The Town of Munster worked diligently with residents, businesses, and local, regional, and state partners to develop a vision for its primary east-west route through the community to develop the proposed Ridge Road Complete Streets Project which will facilitate private reinvestment, improve transit ridership, reduce accidents, improve air quality, and implement sustainable stormwater management practices while enhancing non-motorized connections for pedestrians and cyclists both locally and regionally with two regional trail systems.

For these reasons, which demonstrate a clear public benefit, I know this proposal will receive the serious consideration it deserves. If you are in need of any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or have the appropriate member of your staff contact Elizabeth Johnson, Director of Projects and Planning, in my Merrillville District Office at 219-795-1844.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank J. Mrvan".

Frank J. Mrvan  
Member of Congress

FJM:ej