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Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
Washington, DC

April 7, 2022

Dear Secretary, Buttigieg:


On behalf of Nippon Paint Automotive Americas, Inc., I am writing to communicate my support for the City of Chattanooga as they pursue a grant through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant funding. The City of Chattanooga is pursuing this grant to replace the 70-year old Wilcox Boulevard Bridge over the DeButts Railyard, owned and operated by Norfolk Southern Railway, and over additional tracks operated by CSX Railway. The existing structure can no longer support freight trucks or emergency vehicles, does not offer a safe passageway for pedestrians or bicyclists to cross this large rail facility, and continues to rapidly deteriorate.

A replacement structure is vital to the community and to the transportation network at this location, which will provide direct access to our newly constructed facility in Chattanooga and includes:

- *Expansion of US automotive manufacturing footprint by investing approximately \$80 million and creating 150 jobs,*
- *Top paint and coatings manufacturer will build 270,000-square-foot LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified manufacturing facility,*
- *New plant to produce automotive paint and coatings including electrocoat ("E-Coat") and topcoat to supply its automotive customers in the U.S., Canada and Mexico.*

Thank you for considering this project by the City for a RAISE grant, and I look forward to one-day seeing a new structure with multimodal facilities at this location become a reality.

Sincerely,



Robert F. Angart
President and Chief Executive Officer