



Chattanooga-Hamilton County
Regional Planning Agency

Chattanooga-Hamilton County/North Georgia
Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)

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April 7, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20509

RE: City of Chattanooga Wilcox Boulevard Bridge – River to Ridge Mobility Project 2022 RAISE Grant
Application

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to express the support of the Chattanooga-Hamilton County/North Georgia Transportation Planning Organization (CHCNGA-TPO) for the City of Chattanooga's application for the Wilcox Boulevard Bridge – River to Ridge Mobility Project for a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant.

The 2050 Vision of the TPO is to preserve, protect, provide, propel, and pioneer transportation in the greater Chattanooga region. This includes ensuring a well-maintained network especially critical corridors like Wilcox Boulevard in one of our most significant Equity Emphasis Areas. Our CHCNGA TPO performs a wide array of transportation planning activities as the region's federally-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization. We coordinate with federal, state, and local governments to facilitate smart, strategic investments in our region's transportation infrastructure over the short and long term.

In addition, the TPO supports outcomes of the area's Regional Planning Agency which facilitated the River to Ridge Plan adopted by the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission in September of 2020; this plan provides a framework for reinvigorating this community. During the planning process, residents of the community were actively involved in developing a community vision that emphasizes walkability, connections to park and greenway, and safe and efficient options for transportation to services and jobs.

The bridge replacement proposed in this RAISE grant application includes the multimodal facilities in the River to Ridge Community that will enable the community to safely cross the railyard, and with the City's intent to make a connection from Wilcox Boulevard to the Riverwalk, the community will have their desired connection to one of the City's greatest transportation assets.

The City of Chattanooga and TPO have a strong history of working together to improve the transportation network in this region and I look forward to partnering with them, Hamilton County, the Tennessee Department of Transportation, Norfolk Southern Railway, CSX Transportation, and the USDOT to see this replacement bridge constructed and the mobility options for this area greatly enhanced.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Todd E. Leamon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "L".

Todd E. Leamon

Chair, Chattanooga-Hamilton County/North Georgia Transportation Planning Organization Executive Board