

STATE OF KANSAS

ELAINE BOWERS

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TOPEKA

SENATE CHAMBER

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

CHAIR: TRANSPARENCY & ETHICS
VICE CHAIR: LOCAL GOVERNMENT
MEMBER: JUDICIARY
TRANSPORTATION
UTILITIES

JOINT COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

CAPITOL PRESERVATION
CORRECTIONS & JUVENILE OVERSIGHT

June 5, 2021

Office of the Secretary of Transportation
Secretary Pete Buttigieg
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington DC 20590

Re: Applicant – City of Russell - Rebuilding American Infrastructure and Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)

I am informed that the City of Russell, Kansas is applying for a RAISE grant award. Please accept this letter supporting the City of Russell's application for RAISE funding for this project.

It is my understanding the new 2021 RAISE Transportation grants are for investments in surface transportation infrastructure and are to be awarded on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant local or regional impact. Transportation issues in rural Kansas and Senate District #36 are very important to us in many ways including our livelihoods and community safety. It is exciting to know that this awards a greater share of RAISE Transportation grant funding to projects located in rural areas that align well with the selection criteria than to such projects in urban areas.

Safety is the top priority of this project. Currently, some sidewalks don't connect or are in a non-walkable condition making it unsafe for pedestrians to walk on them. Many pedestrians walk in the streets making it unsafe for themselves and for vehicle operators. The streets are in a condition that it is not safe to travel at the normal rate of speed. Due to the condition of the streets and sidewalks it is dangerous to ride bicycles in the streets or on the sidewalks. With the increase of low-to-moderate income households since the last census, it is probable that the households without vehicles has also increased. This grant incorporates new sidewalks in the main corridor will ensure that these citizens will have a safe way to travel around our community by foot or bicycle. It also will feature curb extensions on main street for safer distances to cross with new modernized stoplights with cross walk capabilities. Again, safety is emphasized as the very top priority of this grant.

Rebuilding American Infrastructure and Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant would be a boon to rural Russell with safety issues front and center for this project. Thank you for your favorable consideration of the City of Russell, Kansas application and if there are any questions with regard to the foregoing, please do not hesitate to communicate with me. I ask that you approve this RAISE grant. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elaine Bowers".

Elaine Bowers
Kansas Senate District #36
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