

United States Senate

June 29, 2021

Honorable Secretary Pete Buttigieg
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to you in support of the Missoula Redevelopment Agency in partnership with the Missoula Urban Transportation District's (MUTD)/Mountain Line's application for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity, (RAISE) grant for the Brooks Street Bus-Rapid Transit, (BRT) planning study.

Brooks Street is the spine of midtown Missoula and the single route between downtown and the Bitterroot Valley, which was developed in the mid-twentieth century as a highway-commercial strip with a sea of surface parking. Today the character of the highway and land uses remains largely unchanged. It is unsafe for all users and acts as a dividing barrier through the center of midtown Missoula. This barrier hampers economic opportunities for brownfields redevelopments and strategic urban planning. As defined in the RAISE Program criteria, the study area is rural and located in an area of persistent poverty and at a minimum will positively impact commuters from the Bitterroot as well as others who routinely utilize Brooks Street.

If the application is successful, funds will be used to complete a planning study that proposes BRT as a catalyst to transform Brooks Street from an auto-centric business strip into a multi-modal, transit oriented development corridor.

I trust you will give this grant proposal fair and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,



Steve Daines
United States Senator