

October 4, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As representatives of the vast majority of the Washington, D.C. area's employers, workers, and commuters, we are writing to express our support for the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) State Highway Administration's (SHA) application for funding from the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) program. This funding will be used to implement multimodal transportation enhancements on the American Legion Bridge, on I-495 to the I-270 West Spur, and on the I-270 West Spur.

The project will replace the 60-year-old American Legion Bridge, which provides a critical freight and passenger connection between Maryland and Virginia. Replacing the bridge will not just bring it into a state of good repair, but also significantly enhance safety and mobility. The new bridge will include expanded bicycle and pedestrian connections between multimodal facilities in Maryland and Virginia, increasing active transportation opportunities and access to recreation. It also will support the implementation of new transit connections between Maryland and Virginia and the enhancement of transportation demand management to reduce single-occupancy vehicle travel in the corridor. These expanded transportation options are consistent with improvements and priorities identified by our local governmental partners in the region.

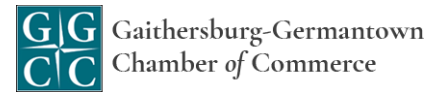
The American Legion Bridge is a regional bottleneck, impacting freight, passenger, and national security access. The bridge is the only direct connection between the National Capitol region's two most populous counties, providing access to nearly 40% of the area's job opportunities. Sustainably replacing the bridge to ensure economic mobility and multimodal transportation opportunities is widely supported by the region.

In August 2022, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approved a Record of Decision (ROD) for the project. If awarded funding, this project would move quickly toward final design and construction. The project also closely aligns with USDOT's Strategic Goals.

Therefore, we strongly urge you to favorably consider this request. It is essential to the long-term sustainability and economic competitiveness of the entire DC region.

Sincerely,





Democratic Business Council of Maryland
GROWING MARYLAND IS OUR BUSINESS

