



MARSHALL

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION COMMISSION

344 West Main | Marshall, MN
www.ci.marshall.mn.us
507-537-6760

April 1, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The City of Marshall Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission are writing in support of MnDOT's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant application for the reconstruction of Highway 19/College Drive in Marshall, MN. This reconstruction project will provide several improvements for the Marshall community and the region. The existing infrastructure is in poor condition causing problems for the roadway users, freight haulers, and businesses along the corridor, including damage to vehicles and cargo because of the rough pavement, water and sewer back-ups due to underground utility failures, and accessibility issues for pedestrians due to badly deteriorating sidewalks and lack of accessible walkways. This project will address all these issues and result in a cohesive network of multimodal alternatives that support diverse and accessible community needs.

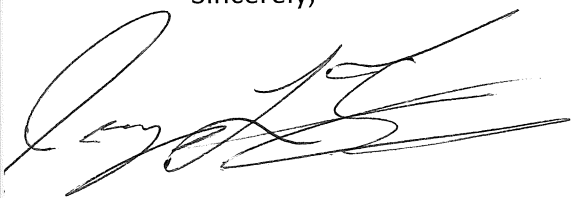
In addition to bringing the corridor back to a state of good repair, it aligns with USDOT's strategic goals with the following specific benefits:

- **Improvements for freight:** Several intersections will be redesigned to better accommodate freight turning movements and make it easier for the numerous trucks that travel the corridor (and the many trucks that avoid the corridor due to current conditions) to navigate the turns.
- **Improvements for pedestrians and cyclists:** The corridor will get new sidewalks, traffic calming treatments, and remedies to make it easier to cross the street. This project would complete the pedestrian network along Highway 19/College Drive and meet accessibility standards.

- **Improvements for stormwater management and flooding:** Several areas of the corridor have poor drainage and flooding concerns causing issues for motorists and adjacent businesses.
- **Safety Improvements:** In addition to improvements for pedestrians and cyclists, the project will improve corridor and intersection safety with the addition of a roundabout, removal of unneeded signals and other safety treatments.
- **Collaboration and Partnerships:** While this project is led by the Minnesota Department of Transportation, the City of Marshall and other project stakeholders have been involved with the early planning and development of this project from the beginning, as there are several benefits to the City's infrastructure included in this project and many benefits for Marshall residents and businesses.

The completion of the Highway 19/College Drive Marshall reconstruction project will strengthen our system of transportation and contribute to growth in our region. The Commission supports MnDOT's application for the funding of the Highway 19/College Drive Marshall reconstruction project and looks forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this 2022 RAISE Discretionary Grant proposal your full consideration and if we can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact City of Marshall staff at Marshall City Hall, 507-537-6760.

Sincerely,



Co-Chair
Joyce Tofte



Co-Chair
Michele Knife Sterner

City of Marshall Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission