



November 6, 2023

Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC. 20590

RE: Support for AML's Reducing Impact of Rural Boardwalk Barriers Project for funding from the FY2023 RCN Community Planning Grant Program

Dear Mr. Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Petersburg Borough, I write to express our strong support for and commitment to participating in Alaska DOT&PF and partners' receipt of the FY2023 Thriving Communities Regional (TCP-R) Grant, which will augment the capacity of the state to provide technical assistance to Alaska's communities.

DOT&PF has developed this comprehensive project to directly benefit rural, disadvantaged communities while contributing to the broader statewide body of knowledge. Alaska's TCP-R program will 1) increase the technical assistance provided to communities for submission of transportation projects through the Alaska Transportation Hub, 2) review projects for additional pre-development and for matching with federal funding opportunities, and 3) assist communities with grant applications that support disadvantaged communities. The project team will develop tools and resources that support interdisciplinary delivery of projects and further identify and cultivate Alaska technical expertise for inclusion in project development and implementation.

This project will not only address statewide needs but provide specific support for communities like ours. This includes addressing site-specific needs for improvements and helping communities complete planning and design. This project is a significant step toward supporting our goals in improving the transportation infrastructure in our community, which by federal measures is considered disadvantaged. This is vital given our remote location and the high costs of delivering projects.

The Petersburg Borough is committed to being actively engaged in DOT&PF's Thriving Communities and will benefit from the technical assistance provided. We have identified transportation needs and will work with DOT&PF and partners who can assist us in advancing them, including identifying potential state and federal funding opportunities.

Respectfully,

Mark Jensen, Mayor
Petersburg Borough
mayorjensen@petersburgak.gov