



# State of Mississippi

TATE REEVES  
Governor

## MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

April 7, 2022

Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE  
West Building  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: RAISE Grant  
Pearl-Richland Intermodal Connector  
City of Pearl, MS

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing you in support of the City of Pearl, Mississippi's 2022 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant application for funding for the Pearl-Richland Intermodal Connector. Mississippi's 2017 Statewide Freight Plan identified this project as a Critical Urban Freight Corridor.

The Pearl-Richland Intermodal Connector project is vital for safer and more efficient freight movement along the I-20/Kansas City Southern and U.S. Highway 49/Canadian National corridors. Additionally, the project will ease traffic congestion by rerouting freight traffic to measurably improve public safety for motorists and first responders, and it will create an efficient connection between the two Low Income Community Opportunity Zones of Pearl and Richland. Phase I of this crucial project will be completed in the near future. If the requested RAISE Grant funding is awarded, Phase II will complete the remaining portion of the project by widening existing thoroughfares and constructing a connector road for increased safety and congestion mitigation.

I am thankful for the City of Pearl's commitment to improving the lives of its citizens and visitors, and I thank you for your consideration of this grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Laura Hipp".

Laura Hipp  
Interim Executive Director

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