

JOHN FETTERMAN  
PENNSYLVANIA

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write in support of the City of Philadelphia's "Bridging the Gap: Ensuring Equity and Access for All in Fairhill and Kensington" application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's FY 2024 Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) grant. This funding would support the city's plan to address the longstanding challenges caused by the Richmond Industrial Track in Philadelphia.

The proposal put forth by the City, in partnership with several accredited nonprofits (HACE, NKCDC, and Impact Services), focuses on directly addressing the longstanding physical division in Philadelphia's Kensington and Fairhill communities established by the adjacent railroad corridor. This disruptive barrier divides the communities in the surrounding area, having a negative effect on connectivity and safety. Through this study, this project would research possible solutions to enhance connectivity and identify obstacles to successful project implementation. The outcome of this work would repair and enrich the public realm for a disadvantaged community that has been marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by the opioid epidemic that has played out along this facility and the neighboring streets.

I'm confident that with RCP funds, this project would yield significant benefits in reconnecting Philadelphia's Kensington and Fairhill communities. I urge you to give the application full and fair consideration. Feel free to contact my office at (202) 224-4254 if you have any questions, comments, or concerns. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "John Fetterman", written in a cursive style.

John Fetterman  
United States Senator