

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 15, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write in support of the application submitted by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) for the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program to support the rehabilitation of West Newton Bridge. The West Newton Bridge carries Main Street (PA 136) across the Youghiogheny River in the southwestern Pennsylvania borough of West Newton in Westmoreland County. PennDOT has expressed to my office that rehabilitating this bridge is a top priority and an urgent infrastructure need.

The West Newton Bridge was originally constructed in 1907, and is an eligible structure for the National Register of Historic Places. PennDOT tells my office that due to its poor condition and advanced structural deterioration, the bridge is now weight-restricted. The borough of West Newton was built on both sides of the Youghiogheny River, making this bridge an integral piece of infrastructure for the community. The bridge provides access to schools, healthcare facilities, emergency services, and more than 300 businesses that lie within a 1-mile radius of the bridge.

This RAISE funding would allow PennDOT to rehabilitate this critical bridge and improve safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicles. PennDOT also made clear that there is a plan in place to maintain traffic over the river during construction.

I urge you to give the application full and fair consideration. Feel free to contact my office (202) 224-4254 if you have any questions, comments, or concerns. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



John Fetterman
United States Senator