



TOWN OF BOXFORD
Office of the Town Administrator
7A Spofford Road
Boxford, MA 01921

February 26, 2024

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

Attention: Andrea Jacobson, RAISE Grant Program Manager

Secretary Buttigieg:

The Town of Boxford is pleased to submit this letter of support for the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission's (MVPC) Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) application. MVPC's application packages planning and design work for two critical East Coast Greenway and Border to Boston bridges, one of which falls within our community. The proposed NEPA/MEPA documentation and associated design work will help integrate our community into the continuous, national East Coast Greenway network by connecting the trail over Interstate 95.

Boxford's bridge will extend across I-95, connecting the Topsfield Linear Common with the Boxford Rail Trail. Adjacency to Pye Brook, slope challenges, and environmental sensitivity necessitates a thorough NEPA/MEPA process to understand alternatives and engage stakeholders. Following NEPA/MEPA, MVPC and its partners will advance a selected alternative to 100 percent design. Complete plans will allow MVPC, Boxford, and MassDOT to collaborate on construction funding opportunities.

As you know, the long-planned East Coast Greenway/Border to Boston project will improve opportunities for tourism, but perhaps more importantly, the trail will increase local connectivity for trail-adjacent communities. As the region's active transportation network grows, so do the opportunities for those who cannot afford a vehicle, those who prefer sustainable modes of transport, and those who embrace healthy means of travel. We appreciate USDOT's consideration to fund our shared commitment toward these goals.

Sincerely,

Matt Coogan
Boxford Town Administrator