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April 8, 2022

Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Support of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant application for completion of the Cabrillo Boulevard Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Rail Improvements Project.

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of Caltrans and SBCAG's United States (U.S.) Department of Transportation's 2021 RAISE program grant application to complete funding for the Cabrillo Boulevard Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Rail Improvements Project (Project) in the City of Santa Barbara. This project is a component of the nationally significant Santa Barbara U.S. 101 Multimodal Corridor project that involves sixteen miles of continuous High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes, interregional bus service, enhanced commuter rail, and an interconnected active transportation / California Coastal Trail network.

The Project advances transportation equity, supports strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improves quality of life, encourages transportation mode shifts, and strengthens job accessibility. The project will improve a constrained section of the Cabrillo Boulevard railroad undercrossing between U.S. Highway 101 and Los Patos Way benefitting pedestrians, bicyclists, freight carriers, vehicles, and local low-income community residents. Improvements include replacing an aging railroad structure, and adding a multipurpose path, class II bike lanes, and sidewalks to enhance safety and decrease greenhouse gas emissions and dependence on automobiles. The project will also eliminate a gap in the California Coastal Trail. The two new railroad structures have been designed to allow for double-tracking of the railroad to help improve rail efficiencies for both freight and passenger service.

There is a strong local commitment to complete the project with \$29 million of Measure A funds, Santa Barbara County's local transportation sales tax, and State gas tax secured as a funding match for the grant application.

I firmly believe the Cabrillo Boulevard Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Rail Improvements Project will have a significant impact for residents and visitors to the City of Santa Barbara, Central Coast region, State of California, and the nation. I strongly support Caltrans and SBCAG's RAISE grant application and urge your full consideration of this \$25 million grant application.

Sincerely,

KRISTEN MILLER | President/CEO

SANTA BARBARA SOUTH COAST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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