

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 27, 2022

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

**RE: RAISE Grant application: McGilchrist Complete Street Project; City of Salem, OR**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We write today to express our support of the City of Salem's application for funding to McGilchrist Complete Street project, utilizing the Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program.

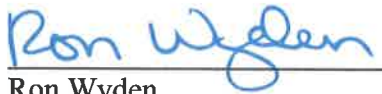
This project focuses on enhancing regional connectivity and safe, efficient infrastructure, which are critical foundations for a thriving economy. The application by the City of Salem requests support for road improvements for the entirety of McGilchrist Street, to make it a safe and vital part of the city with future development opportunities.

McGilchrist Street is currently in great disrepair. It lacks sufficient width to safely accommodate current traffic volumes. It also has areas with limited to non-existent shoulders, no turn lanes and no crossing facilities for over 4300 feet. Further, it is subject to frequent flooding due to two undersized creek crossings and inadequate drainage. The benefits to completion of this project are vast and include: opening land for development within a federally designated opportunity zone; opening opportunity for financing transportation and storm water infrastructure improvements; stimulating development of light industrial and industrial commercial uses; and improving safety for people and freight on this federal and state-designated Critical Urban Freight Corridor.

The goals of this project are consistent with the intent of the RAISE program to fund high-impact transportation investments that increase access to safe and affordable transportation; facilitate economic growth and competitiveness; contribute to environmental sustainability; and promote regional connectivity. An investment in the City of Salem is an investment in Oregon's economic future.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of City of Salem's McGilchrist Complete Street project. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Betsy Emery in Senator Merkley's Salem, Oregon office at 503-816-4509 or Fritz Graham in Senator Wyden's office at 503-999-4500.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator