



February 13, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant for the Liberty Hill Program of Projects to Reconnect Liberty Hill, Texas

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to express Williamson County's financial commitment for funding the Williamson County, Texas Liberty Hill Bypass East Segment and for the reconnecting of Liberty Hill through the realignment of State Highway 29 around the city. Rerouting SH 29 will allow the City of Liberty Hill to begin realizing plans set forth in their 2040 Comprehensive Plan and build a more livable, walkable, connected, and sustainable community with much needed housing and jobs for the region and city.

The Project's estimated construction cost is \$24M (as presented in our RAISE grant application). Williamson County commits to contributing \$12M in non-federal funds to support this Project as detailed in our Project application. Liberty Hill Program of Projects to Reconnect Liberty Hill, Texas Grant Request was approved by the Williamson County Commissioners Court on February 13, 2024 (see attached).

Our county is committed to this Project, which will deliver safe, dependable, and efficient transportation for travelers by providing a bypass route around the city that will improve safety in the downtown center. The County has already expended funds for planning, design, and environmental studies for several sections of the program of projects. Williamson County is committed to partnering with federal programs that will improve safety for the traveling public both those in cars and those outside of cars—while simultaneously improving quality of life for all residents. If federal funding is provided, the County will obligate the funding within the time period set forth under federal-aid highway requirements.

The Liberty Hill Program of Projects will construct safety, efficiency, and environmental improvements to modernize this major transportation corridor that is critical to connecting suburban and rural residents to nearby high-quality technology and light industrial jobs offering lifelong skill and career growth opportunities including those generated by the new Apple and Samsung campuses and the Tesla Gigafactory, many of which have received CHIPS and Science Act funding.

I respectfully request that Williamson County's funding commitment be given full consideration as you consider our federal funds request of only \$12,150,000 to fill an existing funding gap. If you have any further questions, please contact me at (512) 943-1550 or ctyjudge@wilco.org.

Sincerely,

Judge Bill Gravell, Jr.
Williamson County Judge
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