

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

February 5, 2024

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

Re: Support for the Revitalizing Downtown Keene RAISE Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Please accept this letter of support for the Revitalizing Downtown Keene project to the U.S. Department of Transportation's RAISE Program. Acknowledging the significance of downtown Keene, New Hampshire, as the region's economic heart with a commitment to maintaining its vibrancy, relevance, and functionality for all, this multi-modal project brings increased access, resilient design, and improved quality of life to long underinvested communities.

Keene's downtown serves as an economic, social, and cultural engine for both the city and surrounding Monadnock Region. This opportunity will transform the downtown streetscape into a dynamic corridor that accommodates expanding community uses, prioritizes multimodal and active transportation access, expands connections to downtown, and integrates climate adaptation and resiliency measures.

This project would replace core utility infrastructure, upgrade the walking and cycling environment, create new flexible community spaces, and incorporate elements that will reduce flooding, support better air quality, and reduce the impacts of heat island effect. Reduction in roadway widths, crosswalk and sidewalk improvements, as well as new sidewalk grade bike lanes will prioritize people over cars and support the wider use of multi-modal transit across a greater array of groups.

Furthermore, the project would also cement Keene's downtown as a hub within the regional trail network that runs through different neighborhoods and connects to communities with persistent poverty within Keene and the immediate area. This increased accessibility would allow alternative choices for people to connect to downtown and the wider region.

The proposed application represents a significant investment for New Hampshire's Monadnock Region that would maintain and enhance the quality of life for area residents and visitors as well as ensure the continued economic vitality of Keene and its surrounding towns. I am pleased to offer my support for this application and hope you will look upon it favorably.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (603) 271-2121.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris T. Sununu".

Christopher T. Sununu
Governor



Arts Alive 15 Eagle Court
Keene, New Hampshire 03431
monadnockartsalive.org
(603)283-0944

February 5, 2024

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

Re: Support for the **Revitalizing Downtown Keene** RAISE Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Please accept this letter of support for the Revitalizing Downtown Keene project to the U.S. Department of Transportation's RAISE Program. Acknowledging the significance of Downtown Keene as the region's economic engine with a commitment to maintaining its vibrancy, relevance, and functionality for all, this multi-modal project brings equitable access, resilient design, and improved quality of life to long underinvested communities.

Keene's downtown serves as an economic, social, and cultural hub for the city and surrounding Monadnock Region. This opportunity will transform the downtown streetscape into a dynamic corridor that accommodates expanding community uses, prioritizes multimodal and active transportation access, expands connections to downtown, and integrates climate adaptation and resiliency measures.

The project would replace core utility infrastructure, upgrade the walking and cycling environment, create new flexible community spaces, and incorporate elements that will reduce flooding, support better air quality, and reduce the impacts of heat island effect. Reduction in roadway widths, crosswalk and sidewalk improvements, and new sidewalk grade bike lanes will prioritize people over cars and support the wider use of multi-modal transit across a greater diversity of groups.

Furthermore, the project will cement Keene's downtown as a hub within the regional trail network that threads through different neighborhoods and connects to communities with persistent poverty within and surrounding Keene. The

increased accessibility provides alternative choices for people to connect to downtown and the wider region.

Additionally, Arts Alive supports this application because it makes space for cultural events, activities, and installations. The arts are a driver of economic health in small communities across the region, like Keene. Arts event attendees often spend an average of over \$30 per person in businesses beyond the arts venue they are patronizing, according to our 2022 Arts and Economic Prosperity Survey conducted in partnership with Americans for the Arts. Beyond direct financial benefit, Arts events help build community. According to our Arts Access Study 90% of community members agree that community events are an effective way to connect people in our region and 97% agree that a connected community fosters the wellbeing of its members. These spaces are vital to creating accessible public events in downtown Keene.

For these reasons, I submit that the *Revitalizing Downtown Keene* project aligns with the grant program priorities and would be a useful investment in RAISE grant funding. Thank you for your consideration.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions, please contact me at jessica@monadnockartsalive.org or 802-380-5090.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jessica Gelter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jessica Gelter, Arts Alive

United States Senate

February 10, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write today in strong support of the application from the City of Keene for funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation's 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program for the Revitalizing Downtown Keene Project.

Keene's downtown is an economic, social, and cultural hub for both the city and the region. This multi-modal project would strengthen Downtown Keene as an economic engine for the entire Monadnock region by expanding equitable access, resilient design, and improved quality of life to long underinvested communities. This opportunity will transform the downtown streetscape into a dynamic corridor that accommodates expanding community uses, prioritizes multi-modal and active transportation access, integrates climate adaptation and resiliency measures, and makes Downtown Keene more accessible for everyone.

Downtown Keene serves a unique role in the region, situated near Keene State College, one of New Hampshire's largest universities, while also connected to communities with persistent poverty within and surrounding Keene. This project would replace core utility infrastructure, make downtown easier to access for cyclists and pedestrians, create new flexible community spaces, and support the wider use of multi-modal transit across a greater diversity of groups. The improvements enabled by this funding will cement Keene's downtown as a hub within the regional trail network that threads through different neighborhoods and will provide more choices for people to connect to downtown and the wider region.

This project represents a significant investment in Keene that would enhance quality of life and ensure the economic vitality of the greater Monadnock region. I encourage you to look favorably upon this strong application. Please do not hesitate to contact my office directly at 603-622-2204 if my staff or I can be of further assistance.

With every good wish,



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

COLONIAL

PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

February 12, 2024

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

Re: Support for the *Revitalizing Downtown Keene* RAISE Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Please accept this letter of support for the *Revitalizing Downtown Keene* project to the U.S. Department of Transportation's RAISE Program. Acknowledging the significance of Downtown Keene as the region's economic engine with a commitment to maintaining its vibrancy, relevance, and functionality for all, this multi-modal project brings equitable access, resilient design, and improved quality of life to long underinvested communities.

Keene's downtown serves as an economic, social, and cultural hub for the city and surrounding Monadnock Region. This opportunity will transform the downtown streetscape into a dynamic corridor that accommodates expanding community uses, prioritizes multimodal and active transportation access, expands connections to downtown, and integrates climate adaptation and resiliency measures.

The project would replace core utility infrastructure, upgrade the walking and cycling environment, create new flexible community spaces, and incorporate elements that will reduce flooding, support better air quality, and reduce the impacts of heat island effect. Reduction in roadway widths, crosswalk and sidewalk improvements, and new sidewalk grade bike lanes will prioritize people over cars and support the wider use of multi-modal transit across a greater diversity of groups.

Furthermore, the project will cement Keene's downtown as a hub within the regional trail network that threads through different neighborhoods and connects to communities with persistent poverty within and surrounding Keene. The increased accessibility provides alternative choices for people to connect to downtown and the wider region. For these reasons, I submit that the *Revitalizing Downtown Keene* project aligns with the grant program priorities and would be a useful investment in RAISE grant funding. Thank you for your consideration.

As a cultural cornerstone and recognized lead provider of performing arts for our tri-state region (New Hampshire, Vermont and Massachusetts), The Colonial Performing Arts Center (CPAC) fully understands the importance of an accessible, relevant and vibrant city core. Located dead center in Keene's downtown business corridor for the past 100 years, CPAC welcomes the multimodal transportation options and increased dynamism this project will bring to the arts community and our city.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions, please contact me at (603) 357-1233 x 102.

Sincerely,



Alec Doyle
Executive Director

February 12, 2024

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

Re: Support for the **Revitalizing Downtown Keene** RAISE Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Please accept this letter of support for the Z°À|| o||]vP ~}Áv project to the U.S. Department of Transportation's RAISE Program. Acknowledging the significance of Downtown Keene as the region's economic engine with a commitment to maintaining its vibrancy, relevance, and functionality for all, this multi-modal project brings equitable access, resilient design, and improved quality of life to long underinvested communities.

Keene's downtown serves as an economic, social, and cultural hub for the city and surrounding Monadnock Region. This opportunity will transform the downtown streetscape into a dynamic corridor that accommodates expanding community uses, prioritizes multimodal and active transportation access, expands connections to downtown, and integrates climate adaptation and resiliency measures.

The project would replace core utility infrastructure, upgrade the walking and cycling environment, create new flexible community spaces, and incorporate elements that will reduce flooding, support better air quality, and reduce the impacts of heat island effect. Reduction in roadway widths, crosswalk and sidewalk improvements, and new sidewalk grade bike lanes will prioritize people over cars and support the wider use of multi-modal transit across a greater diversity of groups.

In January of 2021, the City of Keene adopted a comprehensive plan for how to carry out various energy and climate goals within the community with a focus on transportation and sustainable planning. The previously mentioned elements of the downtown revitalization are all key components to carry out these community objectives and further enable us to adapt to the changing climate and reduce any additional local impact to such.

Furthermore, the project will cement Keene's downtown as a hub within the regional trail network that threads through different neighborhoods and connects to communities with persistent poverty within and surrounding Keene. The increased accessibility provides alternative choices for people to connect to downtown and the wider region.

For these reasons, I submit that the Z°À|| o||]vP ~}Áv project aligns with the grant program priorities and would be a useful investment in RAISE grant funding. Thank you for your consideration.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions, please contact Zach Luse at (603)399-6400 or zach@paragondigital.com X

Sincerely,



Zach Luse, Chair, City of Keene's Energy and Climate Change Committee



Wisdom to make a difference.

President's Office

229 Main Street, Keene, NH 03435

February 12, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Please accept this letter of support for the Revitalizing Downtown Keene project to the U.S. Department of Transportation's RAISE Program. The campus of Keene State College, New Hampshire's public liberal arts college, is in the heart of downtown Keene and our mutual thriving is inextricably linked. The RAISE grant provides the City of Keene with an invaluable opportunity.

Keene's downtown is the economic, social, and cultural hub for the city and surrounding Monadnock Region. This grant will allow us to reimagine and transform downtown Keene into a dynamic corridor that accommodates ever-expanding community uses, prioritize multimodal transportation access, and integrate climate adaptation and resiliency measures.

The project will cement Keene's downtown as a hub within the regional trail network that threads through different neighborhoods and connects to communities with persistent poverty within and surrounding Keene. With this funding, Keene can replace core utility infrastructure, upgrade walking and cycling environments, create new flexible community gathering spaces, and incorporate elements to reduce flooding, support better air quality, and lessen impacts of heat island effect. Keene can reduce roadway widths, improve crosswalks and sidewalks, and use new sidewalk grade bike lanes to prioritize people over cars and support the wider use of multi-modal transit.

The increased accessibility provides alternative choices for people to connect to downtown and the wider region. All these efforts will increase the sense of belonging in Keene across a greater diversity of groups.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melinda D. Treadwell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Melinda D. Treadwell, Ph.D.
President



The Senate of the State of New Hampshire

107 North Main Street, Concord, NH 03301-4951

February 13th, 2024

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

Re: Support for the *Revitalizing Downtown Keene* RAISE Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Please accept this letter of support for the *Revitalizing Downtown Keene* project to the U.S. Department of Transportation's RAISE Program. Acknowledging the significance of Downtown Keene as the region's economic engine with a commitment to maintaining its vibrancy, relevance, and functionality for all, this multi-modal project brings equitable access, resilient design, and improved quality of life to long underinvested communities.

Keene's downtown serves as an economic, social, and cultural hub for the city and surrounding Monadnock Region. This opportunity will transform the downtown streetscape into a dynamic corridor that accommodates expanding community uses, prioritizes multimodal and active transportation access, expands connections to downtown, and integrates climate adaptation and resiliency measures.

The project would replace core utility infrastructure, upgrade the walking and cycling environment, create new flexible community spaces, and incorporate elements that will reduce flooding, support better air quality, and reduce the impacts of heat island effect. Reduction in roadway widths, crosswalk and sidewalk improvements, and new sidewalk grade bike lanes will prioritize people over cars and support the wider use of multi-modal transit across a greater diversity of groups.

Furthermore, the project will cement Keene's downtown as a hub within the regional trail network that threads through different neighborhoods and connects to communities with persistent poverty within and surrounding Keene. The increased accessibility provides alternative choices for people to connect to downtown and the wider region.

The project will provide needed improvements to downtown Keene that will address the economic, environmental, and infrastructural needs of the community. The project simultaneously addresses community health and climate change by encouraging alternative means of travel and supporting a healthy environment, in addition to addressing regional poverty concerns by removing barriers to opportunity and making downtown Keene more accessible for all.

For these reasons, I submit that the Revitalizing Downtown Keene project aligns with the grant program priorities and would be a useful investment in RAISE grant funding. Thank you for your consideration.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions. Please contact Sophie Walsh at 603-271-3469.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sophie Walsh', written over a large, light-colored circular mark.

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 15, 2024

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

RE: Keene RAISE Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

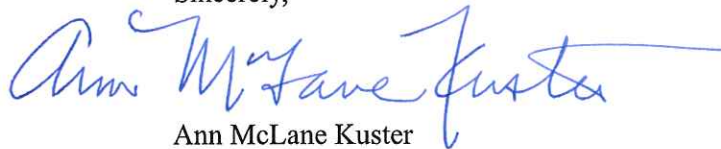
I proudly support the City of Keene's application for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program. The Revitalizing Downtown Keene project is committed to maintaining vibrancy, relevance, and functionality for all, while improving equitable access, resilient design, and quality of life for long-underinvested communities.

Keene's downtown is an important economic, social, and cultural hub for the Monadnock Region. With DOT's support, Keene's proposal will transform the downtown streetscape into a dynamic corridor that accommodates expanding community uses, prioritizes multimodal and active transportation access, expands connections to downtown, and integrates climate adaptation and resiliency measures.

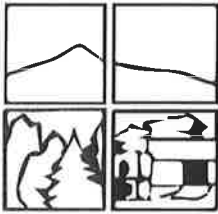
The project would replace core utility infrastructure, upgrade the walking and cycling environment, create new flexible community spaces, and incorporate elements that will reduce flooding, support better air quality, and reduce the impacts of the heat island effect. Reduction in roadway widths, crosswalk and sidewalk improvements, and new sidewalk-grade bike lanes will prioritize people over cars and support the wider use of multi-modal transit. The project will also cement Keene's downtown as a hub within the regional trail network that threads through different neighborhoods and connects to communities with persistent poverty within and surrounding Keene. The increased accessibility provides alternative choices for people to connect to downtown Keene and the wider region—an important step in making a transportation system that works for more people.

I fully support the City of Keene's application, and I urge you to give it full and fair consideration. The proposed application represents a significant investment that would address regional transportation needs while enhancing the quality of life for area residents and supporting the continued efforts by the City of Keene to elevate underserved communities. Please keep my office informed as the award process moves forward by contacting Ryan Hyde on my staff at (603) 595-2006 or ryan.hyde@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Southwest Region Planning Commission

37 Ashuelot Street, Keene, NH 03431

603-357-0557 Voice

603-357-7440 Fax

February 15, 2024

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

Re: Revitalizing Downtown Keene RAISE Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Southwest Region Planning Commission (SWRPC), please accept this correspondence in support of the Revitalizing Downtown Keene proposal under the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) RAISE Program. This multi-modal transportation project is very well aligned with the Program's strategic goals by addressing critical safety issues, improving access and mobility for our most vulnerable populations, addressing local climate and sustainability goals, and strengthening the local and regional economy. The proposal seeks to replace core utility infrastructure, upgrade the walking and cycling environment, create new flexible community spaces, and incorporate elements that will reduce flooding, improve air quality, and reduce the impacts of heat island effect. Reduction in roadway widths, crosswalk and sidewalk improvements, and new sidewalk grade bike lanes will prioritize people over cars and support current efforts to improve transit services in the area.

Downtown Keene is the center of the Region, drawing employees, customers, students, and others from Southwest NH, Vermont and Massachusetts to jobs, goods, services and cultural destinations. According to recent commuting data, the City's population (approximately 23,000) grows by 25% on a typical weekday from workers alone.¹ In addition to the influx of workers, several thousand additional visitors come to the City's downtown daily to access medical and professional services, retail stores, restaurants, banks, schools, museums, theaters, government offices, and courts, Keene State College, Antioch University, and many other destinations. In rural New Hampshire, the predominant mode of transportation is the personal vehicle placing significant traffic impacts on Keene's downtown. The Revitalizing Downtown Keene project is instrumental in addressing the near ubiquitous safety conflicts that motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists experience in the downtown today by incorporating complete streets that encourage visitors to park and then walk, bike or use the City's transit system during their stay.

In addition to hosting the daily influx of visitors, Keene's downtown has the largest and densest residential population in the Region. Many of the Region's most vulnerable populations live in the downtown area. The mixed-use area hosts hundreds of multifamily and senior housing apartments as well

¹ U.S. Census Bureau. LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (2002-2021) accessed on February 14, 2024 at <https://onthemap.ces.census.gov>.

TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964

web site: www.swrpc.org

as homeless shelters interspersed among commercial, governmental, educational, and cultural destinations. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, approximately 12% of households in the downtown do not own a vehicle—a very high number for rural New Hampshire.² Keene and its downtown are currently experiencing record high rates of homelessness, median home values and monthly rental costs as well as record low owner occupied and rental housing unit vacancies. According to the *Southwest New Hampshire Regional Housing Needs Assessment* published by SWRPC in 2023, the City of Keene will require 755 new housing units by 2030 in order to address housing cost escalation and low vacancy trends.³ After housing, transportation expenses are among the highest costs for our rural population. Having a City core that supports carless households will have real impact on residents making the City and Region more affordable, resilient and sustainable.

The *Revitalizing Downtown Keene* project aligns with many of the Region's long range transportation goals and objectives:⁴

Goal 1: The transport system will be managed to support and enhance the regional economy.

Objective 1A: It will be managed to foster a reliable business climate for existing and new businesses.

Objective 1B: It will be managed to leverage, attract and stimulate new investment.

Objective 1C: It will be managed to nurture and support regional economic diversity.

Objective 1D: It will provide transportation efficiency solutions for households, businesses, and taxpayers and free up scarce resources for personal, business and community investments.

Goal 2: The transport system will be managed to help preserve and enhance natural, cultural and historic resources.

Objective 2A: It will be managed to ensure high quality water, soil and air.

Objective 2B: It will be managed to reduce greenhouse gases from transportation emissions.

Objective 2D: It will be managed to preserve the sense of place of its villages, downtowns, parks and other unique cultural and historic destinations.

Objective 2E: It will work to preserve elements of the Region's transportation history including its historic bridges, trestle bridges, railroad depots, rail rights of way and other resources.

Goal 3: The transport system will provide people of all ages and abilities timely access to goods, services, recreation, entertainment and companionship.

Objective 3C: It will improve mode of transport choices as well as the quality of existing alternative choices inside the region and with outside destinations.

Objective 3D: It will support and encourage local efforts to improve street, sidewalk, bicycle path and virtual connectivity as well as land use practices that reduce overreliance on building transportation capacity or requirements for long-distance transportation solutions.

Goal 4: The transport system will be designed and managed to eliminate fatalities and injuries as well as provide reassurance to the traveling public that they are safe.

Objective 4A: It will be designed and managed to address unique safety challenges of special populations including but not limited to senior citizens, the disabled and the youth.

² U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates for Census Tracts 9711, 9713 and 9714.03, Table B25044 accessed on February 14, 2024 at <https://data.census.gov>.

³ SWRPC. 2023. *Southwest New Hampshire Regional Needs Assessment* available at <https://www.swrpc.org/housing/>.

⁴ SWRPC. 2023. *Southwest Connects: Southwest Region Transportation Plan: 2023-2040* available at <https://www.swrpc.org/programs-services/transportation/long-range-transportation-plan/>.

- Objective 4C: It will address safety concerns of “incomplete streets” and its effect on the traveling public’s comfort walking, biking or using transit.
- Objective 4D: It will proactively mitigate potential dangers associated from severe storm events and other causes of potential hazards.

In summary, the Revitalizing Downtown Keene project serves as a shining example of the type of transportation investment that our Region has strived for, addressing not only real transportation needs, but also improving social and economic conditions for the Region and incorporating climate change resilience and adaptation measures that will preserve downtown Keene’s status as Southwest New Hampshire’s regional center of employment, services and culture.

Thank you for considering the City of Keene’s proposal and this correspondence. Please contact me if you have questions or would like to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,



Tim Murphy
Executive Director

cc: Elizabeth Dragon, City Manager, Keene
Jesse Rounds, Community Development Director, Keene

February 17, 2024

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

Re: Support for the *Revitalizing Downtown Keene* RAISE Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Please accept this letter of support for the *Revitalizing Downtown Keene* project to the U.S. Department of Transportation's RAISE Program. Downtown Keene is the region's economic engine reliant on its vibrance, relevance, and functionality for all. This multi-modal project brings equitable access, resilient design, and improved quality of life to long underfunded communities.

Downtown Keene serves as an economic, social, and cultural hub for the city and the surrounding Monadnock Region. This opportunity will transform the downtown streetscape into a beautiful, dynamic corridor that creates flexibility for community use, prioritizes multimodal and active transportation access, expands connections to downtown, and integrates climate mitigation and resiliency measures.

The project would restore core utility infrastructure, upgrade the walking and cycling environment, create new community spaces, and incorporate elements that will reduce flooding, support better air quality, and reduce the heat island effect. Crossing distance reduction, crosswalk and sidewalk optimization, and new sidewalk-grade bike lanes will support pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers alike, and induce demand for the wider use of multi-modal transit across a greater diversity of groups.

Furthermore, the project will cement Downtown Keene as a hub within the regional trail network that interweaves different neighborhoods and connects historically low-income regions. Increased accessibility provides alternative choices for people to connect to Downtown and the wider region. For these reasons, I submit that the *Revitalizing Downtown Keene* project aligns with the grant program priorities and would be a useful investment in RAISE grant funding. Thank you for your consideration.

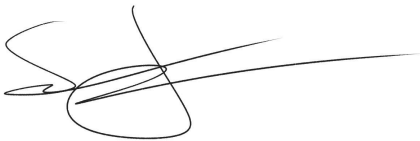
Bicycle and Pedestrian Pathways Advisory Committee supports this project that seeks to reimagine our downtown at human scale. It is clear how it increases safety for pedestrians and cyclists, but also protects drivers by correcting Main Street's highwayish design, thereby

discouraging speeding and reckless driving. It encourages recreational tourism resulting in economic growth by capitalizing on our extensive rail trail network with adjacent towns. Improving bicycling and pedestrian infrastructure is part of Keene's ongoing master plan.

We recently renewed our status as one of LAB's Silver Bicycle Friendly Communities, the highest of the state, and the improvements to our Main Street could support our upgrading to Gold. Infrastructure is the most difficult and costly component of the project, and as such, the grant can ensure these changes are not deprioritized as the project unfolds. Although there is a small increased cost up front to make these changes, sidewalks and bike paths are far less costly to maintain than their equivalent for vehicular traffic, returning the investment in the long term. Please help us seize this rare opportunity to improve our downtown for generations to come while the city is handling necessary infrastructure restoration.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions to Sam Jackson at (603) 706-8151.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Jackson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Sam Jackson, Acting Chair on behalf of all members of BPPAC

Philip M. Jones
40 A Stonehouse Lane
Keene, NH 03431
(603)-491-3967

February 20, 2024

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

Re: Support for the *Revitalizing Downtown Keene* RAISE Grant Application

Dear Secretary, Buttigieg:

Please accept this letter of support for the *Revitalizing Downtown Keene* project to the U.S. Department of Transportation's RAISE Program. Acknowledging the significance of Downtown Keene as the region's economic engine with a commitment to maintaining its vibrancy, relevance, and functionality for all, this multi-modal project brings equitable access, resilient design, and improved quality of life to long underinvested communities.

Keene's downtown serves as an economic, social, and cultural hub for the city and surrounding Monadnock Region. This opportunity will transform the downtown streetscape into a dynamic corridor that accommodates expanding community uses, prioritizes multimodal and active transportation access, expands connections to downtown, and integrates climate adaptation and resiliency measures.

The project would replace core utility infrastructure, upgrade the walking and cycling environment, create new flexible community spaces, and incorporate elements that will reduce flooding, support better air quality, and reduce the impacts of heat island effect. Reduction in roadway widths, crosswalk and sidewalk improvements, and new sidewalk grade bike lanes will prioritize people over cars and support the wider use of multi-modal transit across a greater diversity of groups.

Furthermore, the project will cement Keene's downtown as a hub within the regional trail network that threads through different neighborhoods and connects to communities with persistent poverty within and surrounding Keene. The increased accessibility provides alternative choices for people to connect to downtown and the wider region.

For these reasons, I submit that the *Revitalizing Downtown Keene* project aligns with the grant program priorities and would be a useful investment in RAISE grant funding.

Thank you for your consideration.

As a member of the House of Representatives – this project is an important infrastructure to support the economy of the Monadnock Region. As a City Council member – this grant is vital to help reduce the tax burden on our taxpayers.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions, please contact (603-491-3967).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Philip M. Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Philip M. Jones,
New Hampshire State Representative
Keene City Council



THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



William Cass, P.E.
Commissioner

David Rodrigue, P.E.
Assistant Commissioner

Andre Briere, Colonel, USAF (RET)
Deputy Commissioner

February 23, 2024

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

Re: Support for the **Revitalizing Downtown Keene** RAISE Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Please accept this letter of support for the **Revitalizing Downtown Keene** project to the U.S. Department of Transportation's RAISE Program. Acknowledging the significance of Downtown Keene as the region's economic engine with a commitment to maintaining its vibrancy, relevance, and functionality for all, this multi-modal project brings equitable access, resilient design, and improved quality of life to long underinvested communities.

Keene's downtown serves as an economic, social, and cultural hub for the city and surrounding Monadnock Region. This opportunity will transform the downtown streetscape into a dynamic corridor that accommodates expanding community uses, prioritizes multimodal and active transportation access, expands connections to downtown, and integrates climate adaptation and resiliency measures.

The project would replace core utility infrastructure, upgrade the walking and cycling environment, create new flexible community spaces, and incorporate elements that will reduce flooding, support better air quality, and reduce the impacts of heat island effect. Reduction in roadway widths, crosswalk and sidewalk improvements, and new sidewalk grade bike lanes will prioritize people over cars and support the wider use of multi-modal transit across a greater diversity of groups.

Furthermore, the project will cement Keene's downtown as a hub within the regional trail network that threads through different neighborhoods and connects to communities with persistent poverty within and surrounding Keene. The increased accessibility provides alternative choices for people to connect to downtown and the wider region.

For these reasons, I submit that the *Revitalizing Downtown Keene* project aligns with the grant program priorities and would be a useful investment in RAISE grant funding. Thank you for your consideration.

New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) works closely with City of Keene to address regional transportation needs and has invested in a number of transportation projects in and around the City of Keene and continues to do so. The Downtown Keene Revitalization project would compliment and build on those investments and is consistent with NHDOT goals advocating complete streets. NHDOT is happy to support the City's raise grant application and urges your favorable consideration.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William Cass".

William Cass, PE
Commissioner

February 27, 2024

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

Re: Support for the *Revitalizing Downtown Keene* RAISE Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Please accept this letter of support for the *Revitalizing Downtown Keene* project to the U.S. Department of Transportation's RAISE Program. Acknowledging the significance of Downtown Keene as the region's economic engine with a commitment to maintaining its vibrancy, relevance, and functionality for all, this multi-modal project brings equitable access, resilient design, and improved quality of life to long underinvested communities.

Keene's downtown serves as an economic, social, and cultural hub for the city and surrounding Monadnock Region. This opportunity will transform the downtown streetscape into a dynamic corridor that accommodates expanding community uses, prioritizes multimodal and active transportation access, expands connections to downtown, and integrates climate adaptation and resiliency measures.

The project would replace core utility infrastructure, upgrade the walking and cycling environment, create new flexible community spaces, and incorporate elements that will reduce flooding, support better air quality, and reduce the impacts of heat island effect. Reduction in roadway widths, crosswalk and sidewalk improvements, and new sidewalk grade bike lanes will prioritize people over cars and support the wider use of multi-modal transit across a greater diversity of groups.

Furthermore, the project will cement Keene's downtown as a hub within the regional trail network that threads through different neighborhoods and connects to communities with persistent poverty within and surrounding Keene. The increased accessibility provides alternative choices for people to connect to downtown and the wider region.

For these reasons, I submit that the *Revitalizing Downtown Keene* project aligns with the grant program priorities and would be a useful investment in RAISE grant funding. Thank you for your consideration.



Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions, please contact me at 603-354-5454, extension 2000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JPerras", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Joseph L. Perras, MD
President / CEO
Cheshire Medical Center



February 7, 2024

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

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Overall, the benefit is one of COMMERCE AND GROWTH for the biggest city in the Monadnock Region. We believe that this project can help the next generation of business and business development in the heart of Keene and continue the path that the previous generations committed to as they maintained the sustainability of our historic Mainstreet. The time is now, and we are totally behind the City of Keene and its commitment to revitalize downtown Keene.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions, please contact Luca Paris at 603-209-8885

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Luca Paris". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

President/CEO - Great Monadnock Collaborative
603-209-8885
Luca@greatermonadnock.com

February 20, 2024

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

Re: Support for the *Revitalizing Downtown Keene* RAISE Grant Application

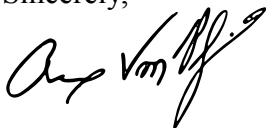
Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As Keene's Conservation Commission, we take seriously our responsibility to protect and enhance our community's natural place within our surrounding environment. While it is true that Keene's downtown is the transportation, economic, and social hub of Southwestern New Hampshire, it is also our home. The commission sees the *Revitalizing Downtown Keene* project as an opportunity to ensure that our downtown melds even more deeply the built environment of Main Street & Central Square with the rolling hills and river valleys of the Monadnock Region.

The *Revitalizing Downtown Keene* project will allow us to enhance and expand our aging street tree environment; create comfortable, outdoor, human-scaled spaces and networks; and ensure Keene's ability to thrive in the coming decades in the face of unprecedented environmental, ecological, and climatic change. For all these reasons and more, we, the Keene Conservation Commission, wholeheartedly support the *Revitalizing Downtown Keene* project.

If we can be of any service in this project or if you have any further questions please feel free to contact us at (603) 352-5440.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sparky Von Plinsky". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Sparky Von Plinsky
Chair, Keene Conservation Commission