

Letters of Support Table of Contents

Maryland Governor Larry Hogan	1
Maryland DOT Secretary Greg Slater	3
Maryland Congressional Delegation	5
Washington County Delegation	7
Washington County Board of County Commissioners	9
Washington County Chamber of Commerce	11
Washington County Historical Society	12
Washington County Department of Business Development	13
Washington County Community Coalition	15
US Senator Joe Manchin III	16
US Representative Alex Mooney	17
Mayor of Hagerstown, MD the Honorable Emily Keller	18
Mayor of Martinsburg, WV the Honorable Harriet E. Johnson	20
Hagerstown/Eastern Panhandle Metropolitan Organization	21
AAA Mid-Atlantic, Maryland	23
A.C.&T. Co., Inc	24
Antietam Broadband	26
Berkeley County Chamber of Commerce	27
Berkley County Development Authority	28
Bowman Development Corp.	30
Bowman Group	32
Chambersburg Chamber of Commerce	33
Community Action Council-Washington County	34
Dot Foods, Inc	36
Ewing Oil	38
Franklin County Area Development Corporation	39
Franklin County Planning Department	41

Fiserv	43
Greater Hagerstown Committee	44
Hagerstown Home Store	47
Hampton Inn	48
Heart of Civil War	49
Hagerstown Regal Airport	50
Hub Labels	52
I-81 Corridor Coalition	54
Maryland Chamber of Commerce	56
Maryland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce	57
Maryland Motor Truck Association	58
Maryland Transportation Commission	59
Meritus Health	62
North Point Development	63
Procter & Gamble	64
Plamondon Companies	65
Potomac Edison	66
R + L Carriers	68
Robinwood Dental	69
Sierra Nevada Corporation	71
Ten Thousand Villages Hagerstown	73
Valley Mall	74
Visit Hagerstown	76
Volvo Group	77
Emilie Amt	79
Joseph Kroboth	80
Nicholas Colvin	82
Washington County Administrator Martirano	84



STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

LARRY HOGAN
GOVERNOR

March 9, 2021

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

RE: I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to offer my full support for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection project, a joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program. This project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along this designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. It also completes a long-planned county road that connects Interstate 81 with MD 63 via Halfway Boulevard, unlocking business development opportunities and equitable access to jobs, and providing alternative routes for freight traffic to both I-81 and I-70, improving regional freight mobility.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck that negatively affects the movement of freight along this nationally significant corridor. I-81 is estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Truck volume will only continue to increase with the boom in logistic companies opening up in the region. Further, this has proven to be critical this past year during the COVID-19 health crisis with getting essential items delivered throughout the region and across our nation.

The widening of I-81 from MD 68 to beyond I-70, done in conjunction with the extension of Halfway Boulevard, will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. An investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in the quad-state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones. This project will also enable the development of new business parks, increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards. Further, as an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready corridor, I-81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change.

I appreciate your strong consideration of this joint application for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project. This application represents the strong partnership between Maryland, Washington County, and the private sector to leverage all available resources to complete this priority project. A federal investment in our community will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,



Larry Hogan
Governor

CC:

Secretary Greg Slater, Maryland Department of Transportation

Charles Small, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs, USDOT

March 18, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to offer my full support for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection project (project), a joint application from the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program. This project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along this designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. It also completes a long-planned county road that connects Interstate 81 with MD 63 via Halfway Boulevard, unlocking business development opportunities and equitable access to jobs and providing alternative routes for freight traffic to both I-81 and I-70, improving regional freight mobility. Lastly, the project includes a pilot of two locations for electric vehicle (EV) truck charging. As companies increasingly expand their EV fleets, providing the infrastructure to support them is critical, and this pilot opportunity will help identify challenges, opportunities, and lessons learned to inform not only Maryland's expansion of EV truck fleets, but also the transportation industry at large.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck that negatively affects freight movement along this nationally significant corridor. I-81 is estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top one percent of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Truck volume will only continue to increase with the boom in logistic companies opening in the region. Further, this has proven to be critical this past year during the COVID-19 health crisis to ensure essential items were delivered throughout the region and around the country.

As an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready corridor, I-81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia. If awarded the grant, we are committed to testing and demonstrating EV truck charging at locations within the project area. As the regional truck EV fleet grows, these lessons can be shared with the U.S. Department of Transportation and other interested parties, including those in the trucking industry. An EV truck charging pilot will strengthen the commitment to EV technology in this corridor as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change.

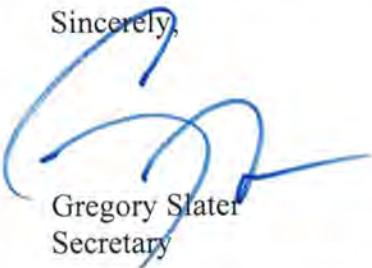
Mr. Pete Buttigieg
Page Two

Widening I-81 from MD 68 to beyond I-70, completed in conjunction with extending Halfway Boulevard, will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. An investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in the quad-state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones. This project will also enable the development of new business parks, increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards.

We appreciate your strong consideration of this joint application for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection project. This application represents the strong partnership between the State of Maryland, Washington County, and the private sector to leverage all available resources to complete this priority project. The MDOT State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) is prepared to commit its required grant funding match. A federal investment in our community will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

If you have any additional questions, you may contact Mr. Jeff Stockdale, MDOT Federal Legislative Officer, at 410-865-1096 or jstockdale@mdot.maryland.gov. Mr. Stockdale will be happy to assist you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. Slater".

Gregory Slater
Secretary

cc: Mr. Jeff Stockdale, Federal Legislative Officer, Office of Governmental Affairs, MDOT

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 15, 2021

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

RE: I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We write to offer our full support for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection project, a joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program. This project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along this designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. It also completes a long-planned county road that connects I-81 with MD 63 via Halfway Boulevard, unlocking business development opportunities and equitable access to jobs, and providing alternative routes for freight traffic to both I-81 and I-70, improving regional freight mobility.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck that negatively affects the movement of freight along this nationally significant corridor. I-81 is estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Truck volume will only continue to increase with the boom in logistics companies opening up in the region. Further, this has proven to be critical this past year during the COVID-19 health crisis with getting essential items delivered throughout the region and around our nation.

The widening of I-81 from MD 68 to beyond I-70, done in conjunction with the extension of Halfway Boulevard, will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. An investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in the quad-state region

and adjacent Opportunity Zones. This project will also enable the development of new business parks, increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards. Further, as an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready corridor, I-81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change.

We appreciate your strong consideration of this joint application for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project. This application represents the strong partnership between Maryland, Washington County, and the private sector to leverage all available resources to complete this priority project. A federal investment in our community will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,

/s/

David Trone
Member of Congress

/s/

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

/s/

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

/s/

Steny H. Hoyer
Member of Congress

/s/

C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress

/s/

John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress

/s/

Andy Harris, M.D.
Member of Congress

/s/

Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress

/s/

Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress

/s/

Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
WASHINGTON COUNTY DELEGATION

March 10th, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Please accept this letter as an indication of our full support for Washington County's application for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project. This project is desperately needed to improve operational capacity, and address critical safety concerns along this designated freight corridor in the Appalachian region.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck negatively affecting the movement of freight in a corridor estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion of I-81 alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Receipt of this grant funding will help maintain the I-81 Corridor's position as a national asset for freight movement for the next several decades.

The widening of I-81 from MD 68 to beyond I-70, done in conjunction with the extension of Halfway Boulevard, will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. An investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in the quad-state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones. This project will also enable the development of new business parks, increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards. Further, as an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready corridor, I-81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change.

We appreciate your consideration of the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project and Washington County's request for INFRA grant funding. This application represents the strong partnership of Washington County, the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration, and the private sector to leverage available resources to implement this priority project.

Sincerely,



Delegate William Wivell
Maryland House of Delegates
Washington County Delegation Chairman



100 West Washington Street, Suite 1101 | Hagerstown, MD 21740-4735 | P: 240.313.2200 | F: 240.313.2201
WWW.WASHCO-MD.NET

March 16, 2021

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

RE: I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, MD, I write to offer full support for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection project, a joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program. This project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along this designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. It also completes a long-planned county road that connects Interstate 81 with MD 63 via Halfway Boulevard, unlocking business development opportunities and equitable access to jobs, and providing alternative routes for freight traffic to both I-81 and I-70, improving regional freight mobility.

The widening of I-81 from MD 68 to beyond I-70, done in conjunction with the extension of Halfway Boulevard, will be an enormous boost to the economy of Washington County and the surrounding region. An investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in the quad-state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones. This project will also enable the development of new business parks, increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards. Further, as an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready corridor, I-81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change.

The Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, MD appreciate your favorable consideration of this joint application for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project. This application represents the strong partnership between Maryland, Washington County, and the private sector to leverage all available resources to complete this priority project. A federal investment in our community will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation and ensuring Washington County remains a safe and vital place to live, work, and play.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: *Jeffrey A. Cline*
Jeffrey A. Cline, President

Cc: Board of County Commissioners
John Martirano, County Administrator, Washington County
Scott Hobbs, Director, Division of Engineering, Washington County
Susan Buchanan, Director, Office of Grant Management, Washington County

March 3, 2021

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

RE: I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

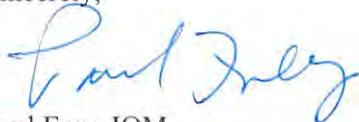
On behalf of the Washington County Chamber of Commerce, representing 550 businesses and 40,000 employees, I am writing to offer our full support for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection project, a joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program. Among other benefits, the project will help to reduce VMT's (Vehicle Miles Traveled) and it will provide new and improved freight access to underserved communities, increasing access to goods and job opportunities, for those underserved communities. In addition, this project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns, along this designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck that negatively affects the movement of freight along this nationally significant corridor. I-81 is estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Truck volume will only continue to increase with the boom in logistic companies opening up in the region. Further, this has proven to be critical this past year during the COVID-19 health crisis with getting essential items delivered throughout the region and around our nation.

The widening of I-81 from MD 68 to beyond I-70, done in conjunction with the extension of Halfway Boulevard, will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. An investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in the quad-state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones. This project will also enable the development of new business parks, increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards.

We appreciate your consideration of this joint application for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project. This application represents the strong partnership between the state of Maryland, Washington County Government, and many members of the local private sector, to leverage all available resources to complete this priority project. A federal investment in our community will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,



Paul Frey, IOM
President and CEO



135 West Washington Street, Hagerstown, Maryland 21740
301.797.8782 washcohISTORY.org

March 1, 2021

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

Subject: Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grant Program I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety.

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing you today to urge your support of the Maryland effort to secure the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant application for I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety to assist in the funding of this critical infrastructure improvement. The Washington County Historical Society supports this application and we encourage your support in its approval and funding.

The Washington County Historical Society was established in 1911 by a group of concerned citizens that realized the importance of preserving the rich history of Washington County, Md; the first county to be named in honor of President George Washington. Many historic sites were in need of protection; sites on the historic Antietam battlefield such as Burnside Bridge and Dunker Church. Other sites like the Washington Monument, the first dedicated to President George Washington. The building that houses our museum and historic gardens was constructed in 1825, but we have researched deeds to the mid-1700s. We continue to preserve it today as a museum dedicated to the treasures of Washington County.

The Historical Society relies on Interstate 81 to assist our visitors in arriving safely to our Miller House Museum and Gardens, the Historic District of Hagerstown and our beautiful MainStreet community. Visitors to Washington county have the opportunity to visit many historic sites, artistically crafted churches from early colonization of western Maryland, incredible restaurants and entertainment. The historic Fort Frederick, built in 1756, features a unique stone fort that served as Maryland's frontier defense during the French and Indian War.

On a personal note, I travel I81 daily and have been subject to major delays that could be circumvented by the additional freight connection. As a frequent traveler, I am often influenced by the ease of access in returning to my major travel route. A smooth transition determines if I will venture to discover that new gallery or historic site. It is dismaying that a visitor will miss seeing the well-researched and exhibited history that our museum offers due to a traffic delay.

Increasing our tax revenue and economic growth, helping with the revitalization of our downtown, and improved safety will all be benefits of the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grant. This is a grant that our community truly needs, and we ask you for your support today.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robyn Sumner".

Robyn Sumner
Executive Director



Washington County

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

March 17, 2021

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

Subject: Infrastructure for Rebuilding America Grant Program – I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my strong support of the ongoing effort of the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) to widen I-81 in Maryland to six lanes along the 12-mile section between West Virginia and Maryland. Phase 1 Widening was completed in 2020, and Washington County has been working on the application for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection project in collaboration with MDOT SHA and other private stakeholders.

Washington County and MDOT SHA are seeking an INFRA grant to bridge the gap in construction funding for a project to expand capacity and improve interchanges along the National Freight Highway Network near Hagerstown, Maryland, to better serve the freight and personal transportation needs of Western Maryland and the Appalachian Region. The I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection includes two components: a much-needed widening and upgrade of a 3.5-mile section of I-81 and a 0.6-mile extension of Halfway Boulevard to meet MD 63 approximately 0.4 miles north of its interchange with I-70. This will create a new link between interstate interchanges on I-81 and I-70, opening land for development along this new road segment.

The I-81 corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, dramatically slowing the movement of freight in a corridor that is estimated to carry as much as 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product each year. The Maryland portion of I-81 alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1 percent of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. The I-81 Corridor Widening Project will increase operational capacity and position the corridor to serve as a national asset for freight movement for the next several decades.

In addition to creating new capacity, the I-81 Corridor Widening Project will improve safety by reconstructing several hazardous entry and exit ramps to create safer merging and exiting. Crash rates along the 12-mile segment of I-81 in Maryland doubled between 2010 and 2015 and increased by an additional 35 percent between 2015 and 2018, with an increasingly high percentage of truck-involved incidents. The State of West Virginia completed a similar expansion project along the I-81 corridor in 2011 that resulted in a significant reduction in crashes. Additionally, the planned Halfway Boulevard Extension to Maryland Route 63 will serve as an effective I-70 connector and bypass, providing a critical alternative should an accident occur.

Phase 1 of the I-81 Corridor Widening Project commenced construction in October 2016 and was completed in December 2020. Should MDOT SHA be awarded the INFRA grant for this project, Phase 2 will be able to commence.

Thank you for your consideration of the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection, INFRA grant application. If you have any questions regarding my support for this project, please do not hesitate to contact me at 240.313.2289.

Sincerely,



Susan J. Small, Director
Washington County Department of Business Development



- Washington County Government
- City of Hagerstown
- Hagerstown Community College
- Washington Co. Free Library
- Town of Williamsport
- The Greater Hagerstown Committee, Inc.
- Hagerstown-Washington Co. Chamber of Commerce
- Visit Hagerstown (Local Convention & Visitor's Bureau)
- CHIEF (Hagerstown-Washington Co. Industrial Foundation)

Washington County Community Coalition Lobbyist: John Favazza, Esquire Mannis Canning & Associate. 410.263.7882 jfavazza@maniscanning.com

March 3, 2021

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

Subject: Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grant Program I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety.

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Washington County Community Coalition (WCCC) was formed in 2005 to lobby MD State Legislators and various federal agencies on issues that are important to the community. The WCCC brings an issue forward only when it has the unanimous approval of the partners. The WCCC is funded through the financial commitment of the partners. WCCC partners include Washington County Government, The City of Hagerstown, Hagerstown Community College, Washington County Library System, The Town of Williamsport, Visit Hagerstown (Convention & Visitors Bureau), Washington County Chamber of Commerce, CHIEF (Washington County Industrial Foundation), and The Greater Hagerstown Committee.

The WCCC strongly supports the effort to improve the Maryland portion of Interstate Highway 81. This project has been on our priority list since our inception 15 years ago. Maryland has submitted an Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant application for I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety to assist in the funding of this critical infrastructure improvement. The WCCC supports this application and encourages its approval and funding.

Much has been stated about the need for improvements on Interstate 81 in Washington County Maryland. Safety is the highest priority concern, reliability, convenience, efficiency, supporting industry and generating commerce are also valid justifications and urgent needs. A failed highway puts us and many of our endeavors at risk including warehouse distribution, manufacturing, ecommerce fulfillment, our growing aviation industries, and travel and tourism.

The WCCC urges the acceptance and the funding of the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant application for I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection:

Sincerely,

Paul Frey, Managing Partner for The Washington County Community Coalition

March 11, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I have been alerted that the **Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)** is submitting an application to the U.S. Department of Transportation under the **Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA)** grant program.

Please accept this letter as a record of my support for MDOT, their state and regional partners, and this application. I understand that, if approved, funding provided by this opportunity will be utilized for the Interstate 81 Widening - Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection project.

I-81 is one of the most significant major freight corridors in the United States and serves as a vital route for the distribution of goods and materials to and from the Appalachian region and the Northeast. Unfortunately, in its current form, the corridor can no longer effectively accommodate the current freight demand, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck that negatively impacts the movement of more than 19,000 trucks per day – moving roughly 12% of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year.

The project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along this designated freight corridor. The project also completes a long-planned county road that connects I-81 with MD 63 via Halfway Boulevard, which unlocks business development opportunities, provides equitable access to jobs, and alternative routes to freight traffic from both I-81 and I-70, improving regional freight mobility.

I greatly appreciate your noting my strong support and interest in this application and providing it a full and fair review. If you have questions, please contact Ryan Thorn in my Charleston office at 202-213-4365. Thank you in advance for your attention, time, and consideration.

Sincerely,



U.S. Senator Joe Manchin III

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
INVESTOR PROTECTION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP
AND CAPITAL MARKETS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

CHARLESTON OFFICE:
405 CAPITOL STREET
SUITE 306
CHARLESTON, WV 25301
(304) 925-5964

MARTINSBURG OFFICE:
300 FOXCROFT AVENUE
SUITE 101
MARTINSBURG, WV 25401
(304) 264-8810

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2440 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2711

<http://mooney.house.gov>

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4802

March 10, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write to offer my support for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection project, a joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program. This project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along this designated freight corridor. It also completes a long-planned road that connects Interstate 81 with MD 63 via Halfway Boulevard, opening business development opportunities and jobs, and providing alternative routes for freight traffic to both I-81 and I-70, improving freight mobility.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck that negatively affects the movement of freight along this nationally significant corridor. I-81 is estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Further, this has proven to be critical this past year during the COVID-19 health crisis with getting essential items delivered throughout the region and around our nation.

An investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in the quad-state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones. This project will also enable the development of new business parks, increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards. Further, as an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready corridor, I-81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in the region as green technology is advanced to combat climate change.

We appreciate your utmost consideration of this joint application for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project. This application represents the strong partnership between state of Maryland, local officials, and the private sector to leverage all available resources to complete this priority project. It will also be of great benefit to this multi – state region including many of my constituents from West Virginia who travel this I-81 corridor on a regular basis. This investment in our community will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,


Alex X. Mooney
Member of Congress



CITY OF HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND

The Honorable Emily Keller
Mayor

One East Franklin Street • Hagerstown, MD 21740

E-mail: mayor@hagerstownmd.org

Telephone: 301.766.4161 • TDD: 301.797.6617 • Website: www.hagerstownmd.org

March 10, 2021

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

RE: I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of our City Council, I write to offer the City of Hagerstown's full support for Washington County and the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grant Funding Application for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project.

This project will improve operational capacity and address critical safety concerns. I-81 operating efficiently and predictably is critical to our economy, both for local freight service but also employee commuting. Hardly a day goes by without a serious accident in our congested section of I-81.

The connection of I-70 and I-81 is vital to the future movement of freight and commerce through Washington County. This project will ensure Washington County is able to attract new and retain existing businesses. In addition to supporting the thousands of jobs already in the corridor, it will enable the development of new business parks and increase freight access and connectivity while helping reduce traffic congestion and safety hazards. We are very excited about the *NorthPoint Development* under construction along Wesel Boulevard. The development includes 2.2 million square feet of new warehouse construction (four buildings) and a \$139 million investment with the possibility of 1,500 jobs. Buildings 1 & 3 are under construction with completion this spring. Buildings 2 & 4 will be completed in the next year. We are currently investing \$6 million as a private/public partnership to reconstruct Wesel Boulevard to serve this development and virtually all of this new commerce will use I-81 via Halfway Boulevard.



The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
March 10, 2021
Page 2

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck negatively affecting the movement of freight in a corridor estimated to carry 12% of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion of I-81 alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Receipt of this grant funding will help maintain the I-81 Corridor's position as a national asset for freight movement for the next several decades. Further, this has proven to be critical this past year during the COVID-19 health crisis with getting essential items delivered throughout the region and around our nation.

We appreciate your consideration of the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project and Washington County's request for INFRA grant funding. This application represents the strong partnership of Washington County, the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration, and the private sector to leverage available resources to implement this priority project. A federal investment in our community will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,

THE CITY OF HAGERSTOWN

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emily Keller".

Emily Keller
Mayor

*c: Hagerstown City Council
Scott Nicewarner, City Administrator
Rodney Tissue, City Engineer*

CITY OF MARTINSBURG
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
232 NORTH QUEEN STREET • P. O. BOX 828
MARTINSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA 25402
PHONE (304) 264-2140

February 26, 2021



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

RE: I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to offer my full support for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection project, a joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program. This project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along this designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. It also completes a long-planned county road that connects Interstate 81 with MD 63 via Halfway Boulevard, unlocking business development opportunities and equitable access to jobs, and providing alternative routes for freight traffic to both I-81 and I-70, improving regional freight mobility.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck that negatively affects the movement of freight along this nationally significant corridor. I-81 is estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Truck volume will only continue to increase with the boom in logistic companies opening up in the region. Further, this has proven to be critical this past year during the COVID-19 health crisis with getting essential items delivered throughout the region and around our nation.

The widening of I-81 from MD 68 to beyond I-70, done in conjunction with the extension of Halfway Boulevard, will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. An investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in the quad-state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones. This project will also enable the development of new business parks, increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards. Further, as an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready corridor, I-81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change.

We appreciate your strong consideration of this joint application for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project. This application represents the strong partnership between Maryland, Washington County, and the private sector to leverage all available resources to complete this priority project. A federal investment in our community will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

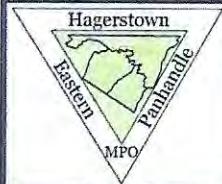
Sincerely,

Harriet E. Johnson
Mayor

HEJ/djd

Cc: City Council
Andy P. Blake, Assistant City Manager

Mark S. Baldwin, City Manager
Matt Mullenax, HEPMPO Executive Director



Hagerstown/Eastern Panhandle Metropolitan Planning Organization

33 W. Washington St., 4th Floor, Suite 402, Hagerstown, MD 21740

Phone: 240-313-2080, Fax: 240-313-2084

www.hepmo.net

February 25, 2021

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

RE: I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

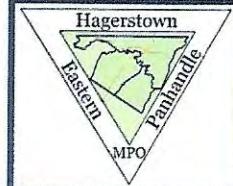
Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to offer my full support for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection project, a joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program. This project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along this designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. It also completes a long-planned county road that connects Interstate 81 with MD 63 via Halfway Boulevard, unlocking business development opportunities and equitable access to jobs, and providing alternative routes for freight traffic to both I-81 and I-70, improving regional freight mobility.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck that negatively affects the movement of freight along this nationally significant corridor. I-81 is estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Truck volume will only continue to increase with the boom in logistic companies opening up in the region. Further, this has proven to be critical this past year during the COVID-19 health crisis with getting essential items delivered throughout the region and around our nation.

The widening of I-81 from MD 68 to beyond I-70, done in conjunction with the extension of Halfway Boulevard, will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. An investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in the quad-state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones. This project will also enable the development of new business parks, increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards. Further, as an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready corridor, I-81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change.

We appreciate your strong consideration of this joint application for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project. This application represents the strong partnership between Maryland, Washington County, and the private sector to leverage all available resources to complete this priority



Hagerstown/Eastern Panhandle Metropolitan Planning Organization
33 W. Washington St., 4th Floor, Suite 402, Hagerstown, MD 21740
Phone: 240-313-2080, Fax: 240-313-2084
www.hepmo.net

project. A federal investment in our community will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,

Matthew T. Mullenax, GISP
Executive Director



March 10, 2021

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

RE: I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of AAA Mid-Atlantic, I write to offer the auto club's support for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection project, a joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program. This project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along this designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. It also completes a long-planned county road that connects Interstate 81 with MD 63 via Halfway Boulevard, unlocking business development opportunities and equitable access to jobs, and providing alternative routes for freight traffic to both I-81 and I-70, improving regional freight mobility.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck that negatively affects the movement of freight along this nationally significant corridor. I-81 is estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Truck volume will only continue to increase with the boom in logistic companies opening up in the region. Further, this has proven to be critical this past year during the COVID-19 health crisis with getting essential items delivered throughout the region and around our nation.

The widening of I-81 from MD 68 to beyond I-70, done in conjunction with the extension of Halfway Boulevard, will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. An investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in the quad-state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones. This project will also enable the development of new business parks, increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards. Further, as an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready corridor, I-81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change.

We appreciate your strong consideration of this joint application for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project. This application represents the strong partnership between Maryland, Washington County, and the private sector to leverage all available resources to complete this priority project. A federal investment in our community will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ragina C. Ali".

Ragina C. Ali
Public & Government Affairs Manager
AAA Mid-Atlantic, Maryland



A.C.&T. Co., Inc.

11535 Hopewell Rd. • P.O. Box 4217

Hagerstown, Maryland 21741-4217

1-800-458-3835 • 301-582-2700 • Fax 301-582-5736

March 11, 2021

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

RE: I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to offer my full support for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection project, a joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program. This project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along this designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. It also completes a long-planned county road that connects Interstate 81 with MD 63 via Halfway Boulevard, unlocking business development opportunities and equitable access to jobs, and providing alternative routes for freight traffic to both I-81 and I-70, improving regional freight mobility.

Our family business AC&T Co., Inc. began in 1959 as a fuel distributor. We have always strived to serve the needs of our customers. We have several thousand customers daily at our 24 hour travel center at 11564 Hopewell Road (at Exit 5B on I 81). Our future success will be dependent on catering to the needs of trucking Fleets. EV truck charging could be an important technology. Our company is excited to partner with MDOT on an Electric Vehicle (EV) truck charging pilot opportunity as part of this grant. If awarded the grant, we are committed to working with MDOT to test and demonstrate EV truck charging at our location. As the regional truck EV fleet grows, these lessons can be shared with the US Department of Transportation and other interested parties, including those in the industry. As an EV Ready corridor, I-81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia. An EV truck charging pilot will strengthen the commitment to EV technology in this corridor as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change.

We appreciate your strong consideration of this joint application for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project. This application represents the strong partnership between Maryland, Washington County, and the private sector to leverage all available resources to complete this priority project. A federal investment in our community will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,



Brad Fulton
President
AC&T Co., Inc.



March 16, 2021

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

RE: I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

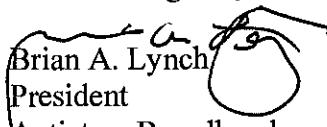
I write to offer my full support for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection project, a joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program. This project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along this designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. It also completes a long-planned county road that connects Interstate 81 with MD 63 via Halfway Boulevard, unlocking business development opportunities and equitable access to jobs, and providing alternative routes for freight traffic to both I-81 and I-70, improving regional freight mobility.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck that negatively affects the movement of freight along this nationally significant corridor. I-81 is estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Truck volume will only continue to increase with the boom in logistic companies opening up in the region. Further, this has proven to be critical this past year during the COVID-19 health crisis with getting essential items delivered throughout the region and around our nation.

The widening of I-81 from MD 68 to beyond I-70, done in conjunction with the extension of Halfway Boulevard, will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. This project will also enable the development of new business parks, increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards. Further, as an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready corridor, I-81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change.

We appreciate your strong consideration of this joint application for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project. This application represents the strong partnership between Maryland, Washington County, and the private sector to leverage all available resources to complete this priority project. A federal investment in our community will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

With best regards,


Brian A. Lynch
President
Antietam Broadband
1000 Willow Circle
Hagerstown, MD 21001



February 25, 2021

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

RE: I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Martinsburg-Berkeley County Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to offer our full support for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection project, a joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program. This project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along this designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. It also completes a long-planned county road that connects Interstate 81 with MD 63 via Halfway Boulevard, unlocking business development opportunities and equitable access to jobs, and providing alternative routes for freight traffic to both I-81 and I-70, improving regional freight mobility.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck that negatively affects the movement of freight along this nationally significant corridor. I-81 is estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Truck volume will only continue to increase with the boom in logistic companies opening up in the region. Further, this has proven to be critical this past year during the COVID-19 health crisis with getting essential items delivered throughout the region and around our nation.

The widening of I-81 from MD 68 to beyond I-70, done in conjunction with the extension of Halfway Boulevard, will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. An investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in the quad-state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones. This project will also enable the development of new business parks, increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards. Further, as an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready corridor, I-81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change.

We appreciate your strong consideration of this joint application for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project. This application represents the strong partnership between Maryland, Washington County, and the private sector to leverage all available resources to complete this priority project. A federal investment in our community will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tina H. Combs".

Tina H. Combs
President & CEO



March 18, 2021

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

RE: I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to offer my full support for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection project, a joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program. This project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along this designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. It also completes a long-planned county road that connects Interstate 81 with MD 63 via Halfway Boulevard, unlocking business development opportunities and equitable access to jobs, and providing alternative routes for freight traffic to both I-81 and I-70, improving regional freight mobility.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck that negatively affects the movement of freight along this nationally significant corridor. I-81 is estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Truck volume will only continue to increase with the boom in logistic companies opening up in the region. Further, this has proven to be critical this past year during the COVID-19 health crisis with getting essential items delivered throughout the region and around our nation.

The widening of I-81 from MD 68 to beyond I-70, done in conjunction with the extension of Halfway Boulevard, will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. An investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in the quad-state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones. This project will also enable the development of new business parks, increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards. Further, as an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready corridor, I-81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change.

Berkeley County Development Authority – 300 Foxcroft Avenue, Suite 201, Martinsburg, WV 25401
304-267-4144 – Fax: 304-267-2283 – www.developmentauthority.com



I appreciate your strong consideration of this joint application for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project. This application represents the strong partnership between Maryland, Washington County, and the private sector to leverage all available resources to complete this priority project. A federal investment in our community will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,

Sandra J. Hamilton
Executive Director
Berkeley County Development Authority



March 11, 2021

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

RE: I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We write to offer our full support for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection project, a joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFA) grant program. This project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address the critical safety concerns along this designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. It also completes a long-planned county road that connects I-81 with MD 63 via Halfway Blvd., unlocking business development opportunities and equitable access to jobs, and providing alternative routes for freight to both I-81 and I-70, improving regional mobility.

Bowman is in a unique position to support this project. The Bowman Group of companies based in Williamsport, MD; and founded and owned by Donald M. Bowman, include D.M. Bowman, Inc. and Bowman Development Corp, among others. D.M Bowman Inc, in business for 63 years, is one of the largest privately-owned trucking company in Maryland with approximately 380 tractors in the fleet. They have a strong reputation for safety, with the latest award of winning the ATA National Truck Safety Contest in 9 separate categories. Also, for energy efficiency and environmental performance being awarded EPA's 2020 SmartWay Excellence Award. Bowman Development is the largest real estate development company with many past, current and planned future projects on the I-81 and Halfway Blvd. corridor, including distribution warehouses, truck stops and private truck parking.

We are excited to be a partner with MDOT on an Electric Vehicle (EV) truck charging pilot opportunity as part of this grant. If awarded the grant, we are committed to working with MDOT to test and demonstrate EV truck charging at our locations along I-81 and Halfway Blvd. As the regional truck EV fleet grows, these lessons can be shared with the US Department of Transportation and other interested parties, including those of us in industry. As an EV Ready corridor, I-81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Virginia. An EV truck charging pilot will strengthen the commitment to EV technology in this corridor as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change.

In behalf of Don Bowman, we appreciate your consideration of this joint application for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project. This application represents the strong partnership between Maryland, Washington County, and the private sector to leverage all available resources to complete this highest of priority project. A federal investment in our community will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robin L. Ferree".

Robin L. Ferree, President



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

Re: I-81/Halfway Blvd Freight Connections: Providing opportunities for economic growth, equitable job access and improve safety

Dear Secretary Chao:

We are writing you to express our support for Washington County's application for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project. As a local development and trucking company, we understand the importance of sound infrastructure and public/private partnerships.

Bowman Group contains businesses which began in Washington County in 1959. Each of the industries contained within Bowman Group is widely affected by the I-81 Corridor and we have concerns that without the necessary widening, it could become detrimental to our business. Two businesses affected at large include a top 200 carrier, D.M. Bowman Inc. Trucking, and the largest real estate development company in Washington County, Bowman Development.

D.M. Bowman Inc. trucking company depends heavily on the Interstate to provide safe and efficient travel. The current I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements which creates disruptive bottlenecks and negatively affects the movement of freight. The suggested improvements will also improve safety by the reconstruction of exit ramps to create safer merging and exiting. This project would allow MDOT SHA to proceed steadily with the I-81 Corridor Widening project and to allow one of the country's busiest and most congested freight corridors to keep pace with future traffic growth.

As the largest real estate developer in Washington County, Bowman Development is greatly affected by the I-81 widening project. Along with our other numerous investments, we are recently invested \$17M into a 504,200 SF warehouse within a mile of I-81 with a completion date of December 1st 2018. The success of this project will depend on the continued efficient and safe traffic flow on I-81.

We are involved in a private/public partnership with the County and Federal Government to extend Halfway Blvd. to MD Route 63 to open up approximately 180 acres for private industrial and commercial development that could potentially accommodate 1.4 million square feet of buildings and the associated jobs. In fact, one of our prospects is a manufacturer of "Green" transportation equipment. Knowing that the necessary highway transportation improvements will be important in their decision making process.

We appreciate your consideration for the I-81 Phase 2 Corridor Widening Project and MDOT SHA's request for INFRA grant funding. We hope you see the impact that our roadways have not only on our business but commercial real estate and trucking as a whole. If you have any questions in regards to our support for this project, please contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Donald M. Bowman".

Donald M. Bowman
Founder and CEO
The Bowman Group

March 10th, 2021

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

RE: I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary, Buttigieg:

I write to offer my full support for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection project, a joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program. This project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along this designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. It also completes a long-planned county road that connects Interstate 81 with MD 63 via Halfway Boulevard, unlocking business development opportunities and equitable access to jobs, and providing alternative routes for freight traffic to both I-81 and I-70, improving regional freight mobility.

In Franklin County PA and Washington County MD there are now over 7 million square feet of new industrial and logistics facilities under construction or near completion. Net absorption rates for these industrial properties is far above the net vacancy rates by double digits. This trend continues to represent an exponential increase in the total truck traffic along our section of the I81 corridor. The 4th quarter 2020 industrial market data analysis is attached for your review.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck that negatively affects the movement of freight along this nationally significant corridor. I-81 is estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Truck volume will only continue to increase with the boom in logistic companies opening up in the region. Further, this has proven to be critical this past year during the COVID-19 health crisis with getting essential items delivered throughout the region and around our nation.

The widening of I-81 from MD 68 to beyond I-70, done in conjunction with the extension of Halfway Boulevard, will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. An investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in the quad-state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones. This project will also enable the development of new business parks, increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards. Further, as an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready corridor, I-81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change.

We appreciate your strong consideration of this joint application for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project. This application represents the strong partnership between Maryland, Washington County, and the private sector to leverage all available resources to complete this priority project. A federal investment in our community will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,



Stephen Christian
President

March 2, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

The Washington County Community Action Council (CAC) is a nonprofit with the mission of addressing barriers of low income households that are striving for self-sufficiency. We serve over 10,000 clients each year with a variety of programs including energy assistance, eviction prevention, housing counseling, mediation, food pantry and transportation. Our transportation services are critical for low income residents that do not have transportation to get to work. We currently run a free shuttle from downtown Hagerstown to Hopewell Road (parallel) I-81 for employment purposes. The Hopewell Express is offered seven days a week, 24 hours each day to support businesses such as Fed Ex, Staples, Home Depot to mention a few.

CAC is constantly looking for opportunities to expand our transportation services because we know the low income community depends on it. If the expansion of the I-81 corridor is funded, CAC could provide a shuttle service to get low income workers from downtown Hagerstown to the job site. This would enable low income households to become financially self-sufficient and not reliant upon state and federal assistance.

The chart below provides a portion of the transportation statistics for CAC. The numbers in the Hopewell Express column is the total number of passengers that utilize the service for that particular year. The total trips provided are for all of our transportation services. You will notice prior to the pandemic, there was increased utilization of the service since FY 2017. I fully expect to return to FY 19 numbers when it is safe for employees to return to work. These figures not only demonstrate the need for the service, but that the businesses serviced continue to prosper because they can depend on the low income workforce having reliable transportation. The contractors participating in the I-81 corridor project would have the same service to transport a reliable low income workforce.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Hopewell Express</u>	<u>Total Trips Provided</u>	<u>Mileage</u>
FY20	59,288	87,262	270,800
FY19	83,115	126,948	345,564
FY 18	66,759	103,941	346,464
FY17	63,583	104,369	344,911
FY16	71,447	116,103	356,675
5 year Average	68,838	107,725	332,883

Respectfully submitted



Monday - Friday **DAYTIME** Schedule

		Stop Change	Stop Change								
		29 E. Antietam Street	***E. Antietam St. between Cannon Ave. & King St.	130 W. Franklin St. (Christ Reformed Church)	1000 W. Wash. St. (County Commuter)	Tractor Supply	Fed Ex	Staples	PetSmart Home Depot Lenox	Tractor Supply	1000 W. Wash. St. (County Commuter)
 A FREE Employment Transportation Program		N/A	N/A	N/A	5:15 AM	5:25 AM	5:30 AM	5:35 AM	5:40 AM	5:45 AM	5:55 AM
6:04 AM	6:08 AM	6:10 AM	6:15 AM	6:25 AM	6:30 AM	6:35 AM	6:40 AM	6:45 AM	6:50 AM		
7:04 AM	7:08 AM	7:10 AM	7:15 AM	7:25 AM	7:30 AM	7:35 AM	7:40 AM	7:45 AM	7:50 AM		
8:04 AM	8:08 AM	8:10 AM	8:15 AM	8:25 AM	8:30 AM	8:35 AM	8:40 AM	8:45 AM	8:50 AM		
9:04 AM	9:08 AM	9:10 AM	9:15 AM	9:25 AM	9:30 AM	9:35 AM	9:40 AM	9:45 AM	9:50 AM		
10:04 AM	10:08 AM	10:10 AM	10:15 AM	10:25 AM	10:30 AM	10:35 AM	10:40 AM	10:45 AM	10:50 AM		
11:04 AM	11:08 AM	11:10 AM	11:15 AM	11:25 AM	11:30 AM	11:35 AM	11:40 AM	11:45 AM	11:50 AM		
12:04 PM	12:08 PM	12:10 PM	12:15 PM	12:25 PM	12:30 PM	12:35 PM	12:40 PM	12:45 PM	12:50 PM		
1:04 PM	1:08 PM	1:10 PM	1:15 PM	1:25 PM	1:30 PM	1:35 PM	1:40 PM	1:45 PM	1:50 PM		
2:04 PM	2:08 PM	2:10 PM	2:15 PM	2:25 PM	2:30 PM	2:35 PM	2:40 PM	2:45 PM	2:50 PM		
3:04 PM	3:08 PM	3:10 PM	3:15 PM	3:25 PM	3:30 PM	3:35 PM	3:40 PM	3:45 PM	3:50 PM		
4:04 PM	4:08 PM	4:10 PM	4:15 PM	4:25 PM	4:30 PM	4:35 PM	4:40 PM	4:45 PM	4:50 PM		
5:04 PM	5:08 PM	5:10 PM	5:15 PM	5:25 PM	5:30 PM	5:35 PM	5:40 PM	5:45 PM	5:50 PM		
6:04 PM	6:08 PM	6:10 PM	6:15 PM	6:25 PM	6:30 PM	6:35 PM	6:40 PM	6:45 PM	6:50 PM		
7:04 PM	7:08 PM	7:10 PM	7:15 PM	7:25 PM	7:30 PM	7:35 PM	7:40 PM	7:45 PM	7:50 PM		
8:04 PM	8:08 PM	8:10 PM	8:15 PM	8:25 PM	8:30 PM	8:35 PM	8:40 PM	8:45 PM	8:50 PM		
9:04 PM	9:08 PM	9:10 PM	9:15 PM	9:25 PM	9:30 PM	9:35 PM	9:40 PM	9:45 PM	9:50 PM		

For information on delays and closings please call the Transportation Dept. at CAC @ 301-797-4161 ext.107

Monday - Friday **OVERNIGHT** Schedule

		Stop Change	Stop Change								
		29 E. Antietam Street	***E. Antietam St. between Cannon Ave. & King St.	130 W. Franklin St. (Christ Reformed Church)	1000 W. Wash. St. (County Commuter)	Tractor Supply	Fed Ex	Staples	PetSmart Home Depot Lenox	Tractor Supply	1000 W. Wash. St. (County Commuter)
 A FREE Employment Transportation Program					9:30 PM						
10:04 PM	10:08 PM	10:10 PM	10:15 PM		10:30 PM						
11:04 PM	11:08 PM	11:10 PM	11:15 PM		11:30 PM						
12:04 AM	12:08 AM	12:10 AM	12:15 AM		12:30 AM						
1:04 AM	1:08 AM	1:10 AM	1:15 AM		1:30 AM						
2:04 AM	2:08 AM	2:10 AM	2:15 AM		2:30 AM						
3:04 AM	3:08 AM	3:10 AM	3:15 AM		3:30 AM						
4:04 AM	4:08 AM	4:10 AM	4:15 AM		4:30 AM						
5:04 AM	5:08 AM	5:10 AM	5:15 AM		5:30 AM						
Saturday ONLY →→	6:04 AM	6:08 AM	6:10 AM	6:15 AM	6:30 AM						
Saturday ONLY →→	7:04 AM	7:08 AM	7:10 AM	7:15 AM	7:30 AM						
Saturday ONLY →→	*8:04 AM THIS IS DROP OFF ONLY - NO PICK UPS WILL BE ALLOWED!										

For information on delays and closings please call the Transportation Dept. at CAC @ 301-797-4161 ext. 107



March 10, 2021

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

RE: I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary, Buttigieg:

On behalf of Dot Transportation, Inc. I am writing to offer my full support for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection project, a joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program. This project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along this designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. It also completes a long-planned county road that connects Interstate 81 with MD 63 via Halfway Boulevard, unlocking business development opportunities and equitable access to jobs, and providing alternative routes for freight traffic to both I-81 and I-70, improving regional freight mobility.

Dot Transportation is an affiliate of Dot Foods, Inc. which carries 127,000 products from 930 food industry manufacturers making it the largest food industry redistributor in North America. We distribute to foodservice, convenience, retail, and vending products to distributors in all 50 states and Canada. Dot has operated out of Williamsport, MD for 25 years and is situated within minutes of the Interstate 81 and Interstate 70 corridor. MD 63 provides direct access for our trucks and trailers access interstate highways. In 2020 Dot Transportation who employs 130 fulltime truck drivers which ran 10,955,668 miles to deliver 284,476,166 pounds in 2020. This equated to 25,339 loads. We expect our volume and business levels to continue to grow.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck that negatively affects the movement of freight along this nationally significant corridor. I-81 is estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Truck volume will only continue to increase with the boom in logistic companies expanding into the region. Further, this has proven to be critical this past year during the COVID-19 health crisis with getting essential items delivered throughout the region and around our nation. The widening of I-81 from MD 68 to beyond I-70, done in conjunction with the extension of Halfway Boulevard, will be an enormous boost to the

regional economy. An investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in the quad-state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones.

We appreciate your strong consideration of this joint application for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project. This application represents the strong partnership between Maryland, Washington County, and the private sector to leverage all available resources to complete this priority project. A federal investment in our community will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,



Brian Duffield
East Region GM
Dot Foods, Inc.



Phone: 301 790-7474
800 452-7004
Fax: 301 790-7499

March 5, 2021

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

RE: I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to offer my full support for Washington County and the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant funding application for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project. This project would improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along this designated freight corridor in our rural, Appalachian region. It also would complete a long-planned county road that connects Interstate 81 with MD 63 via Halfway Boulevard, unlocking business development opportunities and providing alternative routes for freight traffic to both I-81 and I-70. This connection is vital to the future movement of freight and commerce through Washington County, Maryland, and along the East Coast. This project is also critical to Washington County being able to attract new business.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck negatively affecting the movement of freight in a corridor estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion of I-81 alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Receipt of this grant funding will help maintain the I-81 Corridor's position as a national asset for freight movement for the next several decades.

The widening of I-81 from MD 68 to beyond I-70, done in conjunction with the extension of Halfway Boulevard, will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. In addition to supporting the thousands of jobs already in the corridor, it will enable the development of new business parks and increase freight access and connectivity while helping reduce traffic congestion and safety hazards.

We appreciate your favorable consideration of the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project and Washington County's request for INFRA grant funding. This application represents the strong partnership of Washington County, the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration, and the private sector to leverage available resources to implement this priority project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Howard B. Bowen".

Howard B. Bowen
CEO



1900 Wayne Road
Chambersburg, PA 17202
(717) 263-8282
FAX (717) 263-0662
www.fcadc.com

March 1, 2021

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

**Re: Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grant Application
I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connections: Washington County, Maryland**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Infrastructure is the genesis of economic development. As president of the Franklin County Area Development Corporation (FCADC), I write to offer our unqualified support for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection project, a joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program. This project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along this designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. It also completes a long-planned county road that connects Interstate 81 with MD 63 via Halfway Boulevard, unlocking business development opportunities and equitable access to jobs, and providing alternative routes for freight traffic to both I-81 and I-70, thus improving regional freight mobility.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck that negatively affects the movement of freight along this nationally significant corridor. I-81 is estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Truck volume will only continue to increase with the boom in logistics companies opening up in the region. Further, this has proven to be critical this past year during the COVID-19 health crisis with getting essential items delivered throughout the region and around our nation.

I-81 is the economic lifeline of our quad-state region that includes Frederick County, Virginia, Berkeley County, West Virginia, Washington County, Maryland, and Franklin County, Pennsylvania....4 States, 4 counties, 40 miles. An investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most underserved populations in the quad-

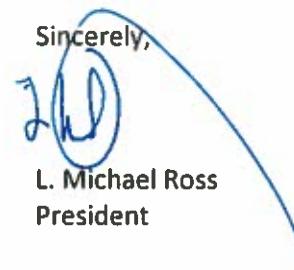
The Honorable Pete Buttigieg

March 1, 2021

Page 2

state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones. This project will also enable the development of new business parks, increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards. Further, as an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready corridor, I-81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change.

We appreciate your strong consideration of this joint application for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project. This application represents a strong multi-state partnership to leverage all available resources to complete this priority project. A federal investment in our community will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,

L. Michael Ross
President

C: FCADC Board of Directors
Congressman John Joyce, 13th-PA
U.S. Senator Pat Toomey
U.S. Senator Bob Casey
Steve Thomas, Director, Franklin County Planning Office
James Kercheval, Executive Director, Greater Hagerstown Committee



Franklin County Planning Department
272 North Second Street
Chambersburg, PA 17201
Phone: 717-261-3855
Fax: 717-264-8667
Email: planning@franklincountypa.gov

February 25, 2021

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

RE: I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to offer my full support for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection project, a joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program. This project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along this designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. It also completes a long-planned county road that connects Interstate 81 with MD 63 via Halfway Boulevard, unlocking business development opportunities and equitable access to jobs, and providing alternative routes for freight traffic to both I-81 and I-70, improving regional freight mobility.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck that negatively affects the movement of freight along this nationally significant corridor. I-81 is estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Truck volume will only continue to increase with the boom in logistic companies opening up in the region. Further, this has proven to be critical this past year during the COVID-19 health crisis with getting essential items delivered throughout the region and around our nation.

The widening of I-81 from MD 68 to beyond I-70, done in conjunction with the extension of Halfway Boulevard, will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. An investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in the quad-state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones. This project will also enable the development of new business parks, increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards. Further, as an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready corridor, I-81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change.

We appreciate your strong consideration of this joint application for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project. This application represents the strong partnership between Maryland, Washington County, and the private sector to leverage all available resources to complete this priority project. A federal investment in our community will help ensure that I-81 remain a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,



Steven Thomas
Franklin County Planning Director



March 17, 2021

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

Re: Fiserv Support for I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am reaching out to let you know that Fiserv fully supports Washington County and the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration in their application for Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant funding for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project. This Project will improve operational capacity and mobility in the Maryland I-81 corridor, and will address critical safety concerns for regional travelers – many of whom are Fiserv employees and clients.

Fiserv's facility in Hagerstown, Maryland, houses more than 1500 employees. The facility sits on Maryland Parkway and is accessed via exit 6 from the Maryland portion of I-81. The majority of our Hagerstown employees – who commute from the Maryland, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia tristate area – use I-81.

Currently, the I-81 corridor in Maryland does not have enough lanes to meet the travel and access demands for the region. This negatively affects our Hagerstown facility employees and clients, who experience bottlenecks and delays. The heavy traffic and congestion cause frequent accidents, which are disruptive to our business. As proposed, the Project would widen I-81 from MD 68 to beyond I-70 to six lanes, which would reduce congestion, increase safety, and boost the regional economy.

We appreciate your consideration of Washington County's request for INFRA grant funding for this Project. The Project represents the strong partnership of Washington County, the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration, and local businesses. We believe the Project is necessary to minimize the traffic delays for our Hagerstown employees and reduce safety concerns for all area travelers.

Sincerely,

Josh Semler
General Manager
Fiserv
Hagerstown MD

Susan Cvijanovich
Vice President Operations
Fiserv
Hagerstown MD

March 3, 2021

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

Subject: Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grant Program I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety.

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Greater Hagerstown Committee (GHC) strongly supports the ongoing efforts to widen I-81 in Maryland to six lanes along the 12-mile section between West Virginia and Pennsylvania, particularly Phase 2 of the project between Williamsport, MD and Halfway Boulevard. This critical transportation project will transform national freight movement through this vital national corridor while improving safety, reducing congestion, improving traffic operations, and supporting economic development in the region. Our community has been unified in advocating for these improvements and it has been a major focus of our organization for over two decades.

In 1998, GHC organized and chaired a Quad State Task Force on I-81 comprised of public and private officials from MD, WV, PA, and VA. This multi-state task force concluded that widening I-81 from Harrisonburg, VA to Harrisburg, PA was *“a must do project”* for the safety of the citizens and as *“the single most important economic development asset in the region”*. Since that report, widening I-81 has been listed as a top priority project for the Hagerstown-Eastern Panhandle Metropolitan Planning Organization (HEPMPO), Washington County, MD Government, the City of Hagerstown, our local State Delegation, the Washington County Community Coalition, and the local business community. In addition, every local, state, and federal elected official over the last 20 years have publicly expressed their support for I-81 widening improvements.

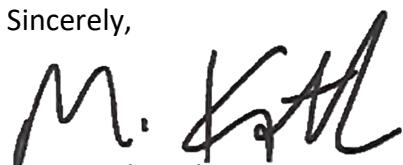
We applaud our federal government for offering grant programs like INFRA as a means to help fund these transportation infrastructure projects of national significance that serve as catalysts for economic development and jobs for our citizens. This Maryland section of I-81 is an ideal project to fulfill the goals and desires of the INFRA program - particularly as one of our nation’s significant rural highways estimated to carry 12% of our country’s Gross Domestic Product each year. With the section from West Virginia to Williamsport now expanded to six lanes, this phase of the Maryland section of I-81 is the next logical portion of the highway to widen to handle the ever-increasing amount of freight and commuter traffic moving through this area. With the intersection of I-70 serving areas east and west, multiple rail lines, Hagerstown Regional Airport, two intermodal rail facilities in adjacent PA counties, and numerous economic development parks and retail parks running along the length of this stretch of highway, widening I-81 across Maryland represents a pivotal capital need that will have a strong return on investment for decades to come. In addition, the completion a long-planned county road that connects Interstate 81 with MD 63 via Halfway Boulevard will unlock new business development opportunities and provide alternative routes for freight traffic to both I-81 and I-70.

In addition to the transportation and safety improvements this project will bring, the secondary benefits to our community are equally important. Many of the jobs created along the I-81 corridor do not require post-secondary levels of education. These jobs have provided living wages as well as benefits to a large segment of our population that does not have post-secondary credentials. This is particularly true for the neighborhoods along the corridor and within Hagerstown that have the highest percentages of poverty. While our community works to improve our educational attainment levels to meet the demands of a more high-tech economy, we need more of these blue-collar jobs to keep our families secure. GHC has had “embracing diversity and equity” as a cornerstone of our strategic plan long before the recent national movement. We have supported initiatives like the “Hopewell Express” which provides free transportation to low-income residents who do not have access to a vehicle. Out of approximately 70,000 household units, Washington County has over 6,000 without a vehicle. (9%), and over 15,000 with just one vehicle (21%). Public transportation is limited in rural communities like ours. Therefore, it’s important we invest in public infrastructure that supports the creation of jobs in areas with public transportation to ensure equitable access to living wages and benefits for disadvantaged populations.

Finally, Washington County has supported the advancements of green energy in our community to combat climate change. We have added significant solar farms, green initiatives in our waste management operations, and investments in our community college to offer green technology courses to assist our many local companies working in this industry. Volvo North America, situated along I-81 has been a global leader in the advancement of electrical truck engines. As EV Trucks become available, they will need adequate support infrastructure (charging stations) along our highways to convince the trucking industry to invest in EV technology. GHC has worked to educate our members on these needs and have several members who are committed to partner with our state to install truck charging equipment and new parking capacity using state incentives that will become available if this application is successful.

GHC is committed to improve I-81 by supporting the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project for INFRA grant funding. We thank your office for its continued leadership and efforts to improve our nation’s transportation assets. Federal grant funding is essential to solidify our ability to move forward with Phase 2 of this project in a timely manner - enhancing the capacity, efficiency, and safety of one of the country’s busiest and most congested freight corridors and the economic engine for our region.

Sincerely,



Dr. Mitesh Kothari,
GHC Chair

The Greater Hagerstown Committee is comprised of corporate and civic executive leaders from over 75 local companies and organizations, employing over 10,000 people in Washington County from across the four-state area. GHC is funded solely by member dues and works collaboratively to be a catalyst for progress and growth in the Washington County, MD region.



A Catalyst for
GROWTH
& PROGRESS

Greater Hagerstown Committee

*Executive Committee #Committee Chair ♀Lifetime Member ♣Charter Member

MEMBERSHIP LISTING 2020-2021

(as of 02/10/21)

5 Public Square, Suite 601
Hagerstown, MD 21740
(301) 733-8811
www.greaterhagerstown.org

Full Active Members:

1. Aaron, Patrick – Total Comfort Heating
2. Azizi, Basheer* – OpSmart
3. Bakos, Jenny – Wash. Co. Free Library
4. Barr, Jonny – Ellsworth Electric
5. Baylor, Michael – Ameriserv Financial
6. Bowen, Scott♣ – MSB Architects
7. Bowen, Taylor – Berkshire Hathaway Bowen Realty
8. Bowman, Don♦ – Bowman Group LLP
9. Brezler, Ronnie – United Bank
10. Bryson, Richard – The Urological Center
11. Burke, Mary Anne – WC Arts Council, Inc.
12. Davis, Taylor – Morgan-Keller Construction
13. Day, Michael – Law Offices Michael Day & Assoc.
14. Ellis, Jason – Tele-Plus Corporation
15. Feight, Brent – Bushey Feight Morin Architects, Inc.
16. Fiery, Doug – Douglas A. Fiery Funeral Home
17. Fitzgerald, Mike – Gideon Properties, LLC
18. Fitzsimmons, Brendan – RBC Wealth Management
19. Ford, Scott – Carson Wealth
 - Scott Toms (Delegate)
20. Friedman, Dawn – Herald-Mail/Gannett Inc
21. Fritts II, Bill* – Smith Elliott Kearns & Company
22. Fulton, Brad♣ – AC&T Co., Inc.
23. Goetz, BJ* – Middletown Valley Bank
24. Grach, Patrick – Lifehouse Church
25. Grunow, Keith – BB&T Bank
 - Bemiller, Tracy (Delegate)
26. Harman, Tim – Harman Funeral Home
27. Harrell, Mark - CNB Bank
 - John Menard (Delegate)
28. Harshman, Rick - CBIZ Retirement Plan Services
29. Hayes, Gary – Spherion Staffing
30. Hayes, Suzanne – Merrill Lynch
31. Herrera, Laura – RBC Wealth Management
32. Hess, Matt – Fulton Bank
33. Hetzer, William♦ – C. William Hetzer, Inc.
34. Houston, Melanie – Meritus Health
35. Hill, Sr., Nicholas V♣ – Callas Contractors, Inc.
36. Holzapfel, Richie* – Holzapfel Investments
37. Howell, Aaron – Bank of Charles Town
38. Hull, Jeff – BJ's Custom Creations
39. Johnston, Michael – M.S. Johnston Company
40. Joshi, Maulik – Meritus Health
41. King, Terry* – Leadership Development Resources
42. Latimer, John♣ – Keller Stonebraker Insurance.
43. Lough, Ed – Northwestern Mutual
44. Lynch, Brian – Antietam Broadband
45. McGovern, Gaye – Gaye McGovern Insurance Agency, Inc.
46. Moore, Tereance* – TM Consulting, LLC
47. Mullendore, Alan – First United Bank & Trust
48. Nerenhausen, Frank – JLG Industries, Inc.
49. Newby, John – John G. Newby, M.D., P.C.
50. Radaker, Mike – MEC, Inc.
51. Rappaport, Jason – Innovative Inc.

52. Reynolds, Kent – Keller Stonebraker Insurance

53. Rohm, Julie*♣ – Preit Valley Mall

54. Rushing, Lynn – Brook Lane Health Services

55. Scott, Randy – Chick-Fil-A

56. Sears, Jim – Potomac Edison

57. Sherman, Gary – Centers for Advanced Orthopaedics

58. Shuster, Dave – Horizon Goodwill Inc.

59. Singer, Jeanne* – Law Offices of Jeanne Singer, P.A.

60. Smith, Chris – Battle Creek Land Co. LLC

61. Snook, Greg – CHIEF

62. Spedden, Dan – Visit Hagerstown

63. Toothman, Jeffrey – Toothman Orthodontics

64. Weiss, Michael*♣ – Weiss Bros.

65. Whiteside, Brittany – Patriot Federal Credit Union
 - Karen Boyer (Delegate)

66. Williams, Noel – Williams Solution Group

Lifetime Full Active Members:

67. Bowen, Blackie♦♦ – Ewing Oil Co., Inc. (paying dues)

68. Kothari, Mitesh*♣ – Capital Women's Care (consumed dues)

Retired Members:

1. Alter, Wayne

2. Barton, William

3. Baykan, Mary

4. Brake, Harold

5. Cirincione, Robert

6. Fulton, Adna

7. Martin, Al

8. Perini, Kathleen♦

9. Perini Peter

10. Pierne, Jim

11. Rhoads, Ross♦

12. Schnebly, John

13. Wright, Gary

14. Young, William P., Jr♦

Ex-Officio Members:

1. Downey, Kirk C. – Washington Co Gov't.

2. Duncan, Kimberly – OnTrack WC

3. Frey, Paul – WC Chamber of Commerce

4. Halsey, Mark - USMH

5. Klauber, Jim – Hagerstown Community College

6. Michael, Boyd - WCPS

7. Nicewarner, Scott – City of Hagerstown

8. Sargent, Tara – Leadership Washington Co.

Honorary Members:

1. Callahan, Art – Retired Executive Director of GHC

2. Elliott, Merle♦ – Smith Elliott & Kearns (*deceased*)

3. Noia, Al – Allegany Energy

4. Reuter, William♦ – Susquehanna Bancshares Inc



**HAGERSTOWN
NEIGHBORHOOD
DEVELOPMENT
PARTNERSHIP, INC.**

**HAGERSTOWN
HOME STORE**

21 East Franklin Street
Hagerstown, Maryland
21740

Tel: 301-797-0900
Fax: 301-797-2991
www.hagerstownhomestore.org

March 4, 2021

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

RE: I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Hagerstown Neighborhood Development Partnership, Inc. (HNDP) offers our full support for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection project, a joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program.

The widening of I-81 from MD 68 to beyond I-70, done in conjunction with the extension of Halfway Boulevard, will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. An investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in the quad-state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones. This project will also enable the development of new business parks, increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards. Further, as an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready corridor, I-81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change.

We appreciate your strong consideration of this joint application for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project. This application represents the strong partnership between Maryland, Washington County, and the private sector to leverage all available resources to complete this priority project. A federal investment in our community will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,

Vicki Bender
Vicki Bender
Executive Director



*DPR Enterprises Incorporated
Hampton Inn
18300 Peak Circle
PO Box 2005
Hagerstown, MD 21742
Phone 240-420-1991
Fax 240-420-6403*

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

February 26, 2021

Subject: Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grant Program I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety.

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

As the Owner of The Hampton Inn in Hagerstown right off of I-81, we fully support The Hagerstown/Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) in their supports of the effort to improve the Maryland portion of Interstate Highway 81 and ask you to approve the IMFRA Grant program for I 81.

Much has been stated about the need for improvements on Interstate 81 in Washington County Maryland. Safety is the highest priority concern, reliability, convenience, efficiency, supporting industry and generating commerce are also valid justifications and urgent needs. A failed highway puts us and many of our endeavors at risk including travel and tourism.

Our hotel has survived the pandemic due to the wonderful location with easy access off I-81. The amount of commerce throughout the pandemic was much appreciated. We are beginning to see an increase in tourism on the I-81 corridor and improved safety is paramount for those and all travelers on this highway. We also feel the economic benefits with job growth in the area is much needed after a tough 2020.

We need to improve I-81 and exploit it to grow our tourism economy. There is a definite need to design safe and attractive exits that invite travelers to explore all we have to offer. Please help us accomplish this by approving the INFRA Grant program for I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection.

Randy Morral
Owner
Hampton Inns Hagerstown MD



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

March 1, 2021

Subject: Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grant Program I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety.

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area, one of thirteen heritage areas certified by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, support the effort to improve the Maryland portion of Interstate Highway 81. Maryland has submitted an Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant application for I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety to assist in the funding of this critical infrastructure improvement. We hope the application will be fully funded.

Our interest stems primarily from the economic opportunity associated with heritage tourism. It makes sense to invite in safe, attractive exits for the 80,000 travelers that move through Washington County on I-80 each day. We want them to get off the highway to visit places like, Antietam National Battlefield, Chesapeake and Ohio National Historic Park (new headquarters to open soon off I-81 at Williamsport), the Washington County Fine Arts Museum, and the many other Hagerstown-based attractions cultural and heritage attractions. World renowned natural resources and recreation opportunities, such as the Appalachian Trail, are also accessed by way of I-80.

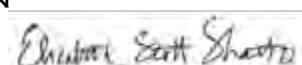
Working with the Convention and Visitors Bureau, my organization is dedicated to helping the community sustain and grow aspects of the economy that benefit link to our historical, cultural and natural resources. A recently released study make is clear that our efforts are working. We know that the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area (which also included Frederick and Carroll Counties in Maryland) has an annual impact (based on 2019 data) of: \$450.2 million in economic contribution, 6,376 jobs supported and sustained, and \$60.3 million in state and local tax revenue. Clearly, investment that helps travelers decide to stop and stay in our area realizes a significant return. Without a doubt, an Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant makes good sense for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection.

Please help improve I-81, which will allow the community to design safe and attractive exits that invite travelers in to explore all we have to offer. Particularly as we emerge from the pandemic, this work will be critical to the tourism economy.

Sincerely,

WASHINGTON

COUNTY
BOONSBORO
CLEAR SPRING
FUNKSTOWN
HAGERSTOWN
HANCOCK
KEEDYSVILLE
SHARPSBURG
SMITHSBURG
WILLIAMSPORT

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth Scott Shatto".

Elizabeth Scott Shatto
Executive Director



Washington County, MD

HAGERSTOWN REGIONAL AIRPORT

RICHARD A. HENSON FIELD
COMMERCIAL & COMMUTER AIRSERVICE | AVIATION MAINTENANCE | AIRSIDE
SERVICES

March 17, 2021

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

Subject: Infrastructure for Rebuilding America Grant Program – I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my strong support of the ongoing effort of the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) to widen I-81 in Maryland to six lanes along the 12-mile section between West Virginia and Maryland. Phase 1 Widening was completed in 2020, and Washington County has been working on the application for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection in collaboration with MDOT SHA and other private stakeholders.

Washington County and MDOT SHA are seeking this grant, leveraging public funds to address critical safety and freight improvements by expanding capacity and improving interchanges along this designated freight corridor in the Appalachian region. The I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection includes two components: a much-needed widening and upgrade of a 3.5-mile section of I-81, and a 0.6-mile extension of Halfway Boulevard to meet MD 63 approximately 0.4 miles north of its interchange with I-70. This will create a new link between interstate interchanges on I-81 and I-70 that can be utilized in case of delay or closures due to daily traffic, construction, or a crash near the existing I-81/I-70 interchange.

The I-81 Corridor Widening project will provide many advantages to our passengers and businesses who utilize I-81 and I-70 to commute to and from the airport. Many passengers arriving and departing from the airport use the I-70/I-81 Interchange to access multiple destinations in our region. This intersection is

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg

March 17, 2021

Page 2

hazardous as it is one of the few remaining cloverleaf interchanges in the interstate system. This forces vehicles to suddenly slow and accelerate before merging onto the travel lanes with very little time to get back up to highway speed. These intersections are of primary concern to travelers trying to reach the airport, as an incident along the highway can significantly delay passengers coming to the airport from points south, west, or east, as well as passengers attempting to return home after a two-hour flight back from Florida. We have had calls from multiple passengers saying they were stuck in traffic and could not make their flights because of incidents on the highway. Even passengers coming south on I-81 from Pennsylvania have been caught in traffic caused by accidents further south in this area because of the limited lanes of travel and the time needed to clear accidents.

The I-81 Corridor Widening project will improve safety by reconstructing several hazardous entry and exit ramps to create safer merging and exiting. With the airport's plans to seek additional air service, more passengers could be arriving along this vital corridor and utilizing the I-70/I-81 Interchange when more routes are made available. The widening and reconstruction of this interchange will go a long way in allowing us to market the airport to potential customers in the DC and Baltimore region and promote the ease of access to the airport for other lines of business opportunities we are seeking to develop in and around the airport.

Thank you for your consideration of the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection, INFRA grant application. If you have any questions regarding my support for this project, please do not hesitate to contact me at 240.313.2764.

Sincerely,



Garrison A. Plessinger
Airport Director



WE
THINK
DIFFERENTLY

March 8, 2021

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

RE: I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my strong support for I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection project, a joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program. This project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along this designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. It also completes a long-planned county road that connects Interstate 81 with MD 63 via Halfway Boulevard, unlocking business development opportunities and equitable access to jobs, and providing alternative routes for freight traffic to both I-81 and I-70, improving regional freight mobility.

As a business owner that operates an essential manufacturing facility which is directly off the I-81 exit 9, I strongly support this project. It appears every week there is a backup or accident causing our employees to be put in danger. The frequency of issues has even resulted in a special attendance policy related to delays caused during their commute on I-81. This is an overdue project that I strongly support.

The widening of I-81 from MD 68 to beyond I-70, done in conjunction with the extension of Halfway Boulevard, will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. An investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in the quad-state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones. This project will also enable the development of new business parks, increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards. Further, as an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready corridor, I-81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change.

INNOVATION | QUALITY | EXPERIENCE

www.HUBLABELS.com

18223 Shawley Drive, Hagerstown, MD 21740
TEL 301.790.1660 | TF 800.433.4532 | FAX 301.790.1795



HUB
LABELS

WE
THINK
DIFFERENTLY

We appreciate your strong consideration of this joint application for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project. This application represents the strong partnership between Maryland, Washington County, and the private sector to leverage all available resources to complete this priority project. A federal investment in our community will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,



Thomas Dahbura
President

INNOVATION | QUALITY | EXPERIENCE

www.HUBLABELS.com

18223 Shawley Drive, Hagerstown, MD 21740
TEL 301.790.1660 | TF 800.433.4532 | FAX 301.790.1795



3500 Transportation Research Plaza (0536)

Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

540/231-4008 Fax: 540/231-1555

www.i-81coalition.com

March 8, 2021

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

RE: I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to offer my full support for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection project, a joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program. This project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along this designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. It also completes a long-planned county road that connects Interstate 81 with MD 63 via Halfway Boulevard, unlocking business development opportunities and equitable access to jobs, and providing alternative routes for freight traffic to both I-81 and I-70, improving regional freight mobility.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck that negatively affects the movement of freight along this nationally significant corridor. I-81 is estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Truck volume will only continue to increase with the boom in logistic companies opening up in the region. Further, this has proven to be critical this past year during the COVID-19 health crisis with the distribution of essential items throughout the region and around our nation.

The widening of I-81 from MD 68 to beyond I-70, done in conjunction with the extension of Halfway Boulevard, will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. An investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in the quad-state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones. This project will also enable the development of new business parks, increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards. Further, as an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready corridor, I-81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in



Virginia Tech

Virginia Tech Transportation Institute

Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change.

We appreciate your strong consideration of this joint application for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project. This application represents the strong partnership between Maryland, Washington County, and the private sector to leverage all available resources to complete this priority project. A federal investment in our community will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,



Andrew S. (Andy) Alden, PE
Executive Director



March 2, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to offer my full support for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection project, a joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program. This project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along this designated freight corridor in our rural, Appalachian region. It also completes a long-planned county road that connects Interstate 81 with MD 63 via Halfway Boulevard, unlocking business development opportunities and equitable access to jobs, and providing alternative routes for freight traffic to both I-81 and I-70. The connection of these two interstates is vital to the future movement of freight and commerce through Washington County, Maryland, and the East Coast. This project will ensure Washington County is able to attract new and retain existing businesses.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck that negatively affects the movement of freight along this nationally significant corridor. I-81 is estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Receipt of this grant funding will help maintain the I-81 Corridor's position as a national asset for freight movement for the next several decades.

The widening of I-81 from MD 68 to beyond I-70, done in conjunction with the extension of Halfway Boulevard, will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. In addition to supporting thousands of jobs already in the corridor, it will enable the development of new business parks and increase freight access and connectivity while helping reduce traffic congestion and safety hazards.

We appreciate your strong consideration of this joint application for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project. This application represents the strong partnership between Maryland, Washington County and the private sector to leverage available resources to implement this priority project.

Sincerely,

Christine Ross
President & CEO
Maryland Chamber of Commerce

Executive Board

President & Chairman of the Board
Marco V. Ávila, P.E.

WSP

Vice-Chair
Corina Morga
C.M. Services

2nd Vice-Chair
Juan Barbanan

Secretary
Jose Montes de Oca
Brown Advisory

Treasurer
Vacant

Executive Director
Maria Pilar Rodríguez
MPR Business Solutions, LLC

Board of Directors

Marco V. Ávila, P.E.
Corina Morga
Gigi Guzman
Brian Marcos
Luis O. Cardona
Margia Arguello
C. J. Santos
Giovanni Delfino
Juan Barbanan
Marcelo Dorado
Jose Montes de Oca
Ana Gonzales

Committee Members

Jose Montes de Oca
(*By-Laws/Newsletter Webmaster*)
Gigi Guzman (*BAM/Grants*)
Vacant (*8a Program*)
Marcelo Dorado
(*Foundation/Scholarships*)
Margia Arguello
(*Scholarships*)
Vacant (*Golf*)
Vacant (*Membership*)
Vacant (*Sponsorships*)
Luis Cardona (*Strategic Partnerships*)
Rodrigo Acha (*Special Projects*)
Giovanni Delfino (*Marketing*)
C. J. Santos (*Government Affairs*)
Alex Zunca (*Sister State Program*)

REGIONAL COMMITTEES

Capital Region (*Giovanni Delfino*)
Western Region (*Sila Alegret-Bartel*)
GB-REGION (*Vacant*)
SOUTHERN REGION (*Vacant*)
EASTERN SHORE REGION (*Vacant*)

Immediate Past Chairman
Jorge Eduardo Castillo
Ex-Oficio
Luis Borunda
Roger Campos
Marcie Castañeda

March 1, 2021

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

RE: I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Western Region Chapter of the Maryland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce offers full support for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection project, a joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program. This project will improve operational capacity, mobility needs, and critical safety concerns along this designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. It completes a long-planned county road that connects I-81 with MD 63 via Halfway Boulevard, that will unlock business development opportunities and equitable access to jobs, by providing alternative routes for freight traffic to both I-81 and I-70 that will improve freight mobility in the region.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive traffic flow that affects the movement of freight along this nationally significant corridor. The Maryland portion of I-81 carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Truck volume will only continue to increase with the boom in logistic companies opening up in the region.

The widening of I-81 from MD 68 to beyond I-70, done in conjunction with the extension of Halfway Boulevard, will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. An investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in the quad-state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones. This project will also enable the development of new business parks, increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards. Further, as an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready corridor, I-81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change.

We appreciate your strong consideration of this joint application for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project. This application represents the strong partnership between Maryland, Washington County, and the private sector to leverage all available resources to complete this priority project. A federal investment in our community will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,



Marco V. Ávila, P. E.
Chairman of the Board



Sila Alegret-Bartel
Western Region Chapter Director

March 10, 2021

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

RE: I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

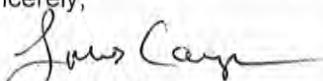
On behalf of Maryland Motor Truck Association, I write to offer our support for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection project, a joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program. This project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along this designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. It also completes a long-planned county road that connects Interstate 81 with MD 63 via Halfway Boulevard, unlocking business development opportunities and equitable access to jobs, and providing alternative routes for freight traffic to both I-81 and I-70, improving regional freight mobility.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck that negatively affects the movement of freight along this nationally significant corridor. I-81 is estimated to carry 12% of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Truck volume will only continue to increase with the boom in logistic companies opening up in the region. Further, this has proven to be critical this past year during the COVID-19 health crisis with getting essential items delivered throughout the region and around our nation.

The widening of I-81 from MD 68 to beyond I-70, done in conjunction with the extension of Halfway Boulevard, will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. An investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in the quad-state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones. This project will also enable the development of new business parks, increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards. Further, as an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready corridor, I-81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change.

We appreciate your strong consideration of this joint application for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project. This application represents the strong partnership between Maryland, Washington County, and the private sector to leverage all available resources to complete this priority project. A federal investment in our community will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,



Louis Campion
President & CEO

About Maryland Motor Truck Association: Maryland Motor Truck Association is a not-for-profit trade association representing the trucking industry since 1935. In service to its 1,000+ members, MMTA is committed to supporting and advocating for a safe, efficient, and profitable trucking industry across all sectors and industry types, regardless of size, domicile or type of operation.

March 15, 2021

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

RE: I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Maryland Transportation Commission writes to offer our full support for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection project, a joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program. This project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along this designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. It also completes a long-planned county road that connects Interstate 81 with MD 63 via Halfway Boulevard, unlocking business development opportunities and equitable access to jobs, and providing alternative routes for freight traffic to both I-81 and I-70, improving regional freight mobility.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck that negatively affects the movement of freight along this nationally significant corridor. I-81 is estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Truck volume will only continue to increase with the boom in logistic companies opening in the region. Further, this has proven to be critical this past year during the COVID-19 health crisis with getting essential items delivered throughout the region and around our nation.

The widening of I-81 from MD 68 to beyond I-70, done in conjunction with the extension of Halfway Boulevard, will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. An investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in the quad-state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones. This project will also enable the development of new business parks, increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards. Further, as an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready corridor, I-81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change.

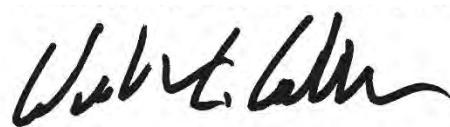
The Honorable Pete Buttigieg

Page Two

We appreciate your strong consideration of this joint application for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project. This application represents the strong partnership between Maryland, Washington County, and the private sector to leverage all available resources to complete this priority project. A federal investment in our community will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,


James Albert Calderwood
Chairman


William Callahan

Ex-Officio Member


Camillo DiCamillo
Ex-Officio Member


Debra Farrar-Dyke

Member


Thomas Hampton
Member


Elmer E. Horsey
Member


Natasha Iheme
Member


Barbara Richman Kahn

Ex-Officio Member


George Littrell, Jr.
Member


Gary Simpson

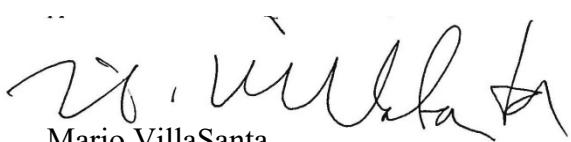
Ex-Officio Member


Lisa Weimin Liu
Member

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Page Three



Gregory I. Snook
Ex-Officio Member



Mario VillaSanta
Ex-Officio Member

cc: Mr. John Martirano, County Administrator, Washington County Government
Mr. Gregory K. Slater, Secretary, Maryland Department of Transportation



Meritus Health
11116 Medical Campus Rd
Hagerstown, MD 21742
301.790.8000

March 10, 2021

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

RE: I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to offer my full support for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection project, a joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program. This project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along this designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. It also completes a long-planned county road that connects Interstate 81 with MD 63 via Halfway Boulevard, unlocking business development opportunities and equitable access to jobs, and providing alternative routes for freight traffic to both I-81 and I-70, improving regional freight mobility.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck that negatively affects the movement of freight along this nationally significant corridor. I-81 is estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Truck volume will only continue to increase with the boom in logistic companies opening up in the region. Further, this has proven to be critical this past year during the COVID-19 health crisis with getting essential items delivered throughout the region and around our nation.

The widening of I-81 from MD 68 to beyond I-70, done in conjunction with the extension of Halfway Boulevard, will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. An investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in the quad-state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones. This project will also enable the development of new business parks, increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards. Further, as an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready corridor, I-81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change.

We appreciate your strong consideration of this joint application for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project. This application represents the strong partnership between Maryland, Washington County, and the private sector to leverage all available resources to complete this priority project. A federal investment in our community will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,

Maulik S. Joshi, Dr.P.H.
President and CEO
Meritus Health
62

March 1, 2021

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

RE: I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to offer our full support for Washington County and the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) Infrastructure for Rebuilding America grant funding application for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project.

NorthPoint selected the Wesel Boulevard location for the development of Hagerstown Logistics Center for the strategic location of the major highways that service the surrounding areas. The project represents new construction investment of \$139 million with the opportunity of creating 1,500+ jobs. Hagerstown is at the major intersection of several highways that service Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York. This infrastructure expansion would assist with creating jobs for the communities and also function as a staple to the economic productivity for surrounding businesses. The city of Hagerstown, Maryland and the state of Pennsylvania provide some of the top labor markets in the region due to workforce demographics and wages, creating long term sustainability. The expansion of I-81 would increase quality life, freight transportation and make the highway safe for emergency services providing room for accident assistance. The expansion of I-81, would benefit transportation needs servicing states from New York to Virginia. This grant would help assist with the funding of the expansion of I-81 to not only benefit the daily commute of the residents but the overall quality of life for these families.

NorthPoint has a passion for the people, but especially in Hagerstown, we are excited to participate in helping the city achieve funding to benefit their city's economic development. This application represents the unified partnership of Washington County, the Maryland Department of Transportation and the business development of local and national companies.

Sincerely,



Brent Miles, Chief Marketing Officer
NorthPoint Development
4825 NW 41st St Suite #500
Riverside, Mo 64150 64150
www.beyondthecontract.com

Procter&Gamble

The Procter & Gamble Tabler Station Plant
396 Development Drive
Inwood, WV 25428

March 9, 2021

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

Subject: 2021 INFRA Grant Application for Maryland I-81 Phase 2

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

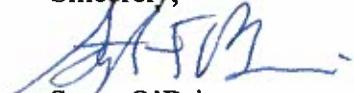
On behalf of Procter and Gamble (P&G) Tabler Station Plant, I am writing to express our strong support for the request from the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) for funding of Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program for the I-81 Phase 2 which covers the widening from the end of Phase 1 in Williamsport to the Halfway Blvd exit and extension of Halfway Blvd west to MD 63.

I understand that, if approved, the funding would create 6 lanes for north/south travel along I-81 for the southern half of Maryland's portion, as well as a new connection from Halfway Blvd to MD 63. I-81 Maryland is critical for P&G's success. With our plant located right on I-81, off exit 8 (Tabler Station Road) in Martinsburg, we are 100% relying on I-81's sufficiency. Although this plant is located in West Virginia, about 200 of our employees have residence in Maryland so our community engagement is high. This manufacturing plant is supplying core consumer products such as Head & Shoulders, Pantene, Old Spice Body wash, Swiffer, Dawn Dish soap, and Bounce fabric softening sheets to the entire US and parts of the entire North America markets so transformation reliability is critical. Due to the increasing demand of hygienic and cleaning products during the pandemic, our shipment is averaging 117 truck per day. This successful deliverable won't be possible without the continuous improvement of I-81.

The proposed grant funding will allow MDOT SHA to proceed steadily with the I-81 Widening project, enhancing the capacity, efficiency, and safety of one of the country's busiest and most congested freight corridors while keeping pace with freight traffic growth.

Thank you for your consideration of the I-81 Phase 2 Widening project, and MDOT SHA's request for INFRA grant funding. If you have any questions regarding our support for this project, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,


Steve O'Brien
P&G Tabler Station HR Director



March 2, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We own/operate two Marriott hotels and three Roy Rogers Restaurants in Washington County. As such, I write to offer my full support for Washington County and the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant funding application for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project. This project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along this designated freight corridor in our rural, Appalachian region. It also completes a long-planned county road that connects Interstate 81 with MD 63 via Halfway Boulevard, unlocking business development opportunities and providing alternative routes for freight traffic to both I-81 and I-70. The connection of these two interstates is vital to the future movement of freight and commerce through Washington County, Maryland, and the East Coast. This project will ensure Washington County is able to attract new and retain existing businesses.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck negatively affecting the movement of freight in a corridor estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion of I-81 alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Receipt of this grant funding will help maintain the I-81 Corridor's position as a national asset for freight movement for the next several decades.

The widening of I-81 from MD 68 to beyond I-70, done in conjunction with the extension of Halfway Boulevard, will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. In addition to supporting the thousands of jobs already in the corridor, it will enable the development of new business parks and increase freight access and connectivity while helping reduce traffic congestion and safety hazards.

We appreciate your consideration of the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project and Washington County's request for INFRA grant funding. This application represents the strong partnership of Washington County, the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration, and the private sector to leverage available resources to implement this priority project.

Sincerely,
Plamondon Hospitality Partners LLC & Roy Rogers Restaurants

Peter Plamondon, Jr.
Co-President and Managing Member

James A. Sears, Jr.
President,
Maryland Operations

March 8, 2021

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

RE: I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to offer my full support for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection project, a joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program. This project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along this designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. It also completes a long-planned county road that connects Interstate 81 with MD 63 via Halfway Boulevard, unlocking business development opportunities and equitable access to jobs, and providing alternative routes for freight traffic to both I-81 and I-70, improving regional freight mobility.

A vital part of the job for Potomac Edison's 400 Maryland employees is to provide safe, reliable electric service to nearly 275,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers in our service area throughout the state. When electric service is disrupted to our customers, we need to respond as quickly as possible to make repairs and restore power.

Unfortunately, conditions along I-81 have eroded the strategic value of our proximity to the highway, a location that would ideally provide our crews fast access to our electrical infrastructure. Heavy freight truck volumes that exceed the capacity of I-81 often lead to snarls and crashes that markedly slow our response times, sometimes resulting in longer service interruptions.

For many of our customers, outages transcend inconvenience, leading to lost sales and production. For Potomac Edison, we face regulatory scrutiny if it takes us too long to restore power. For all of us, there are potential public safety issues to consider. Of course, we have no control over traffic backlogs on I-81 that can also spill over onto adjacent roadways. Traffic tie-ups in Maryland may also hamper the movement of southbound utility crews and materials to our Potomac Edison West Virginia service territory, where we have tens of thousands of customers along the I-81 corridor, and they may similarly impact our response time when providing assistance to utilities in other states affected by widespread power outages.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck that negatively affects the movement of freight along this nationally significant corridor. I-81 is estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Truck volume will only continue to increase with the boom in logistic companies opening up in the region. Further, this has proven to be critical this past year during the COVID-19 health crisis with getting essential items delivered throughout the region and around our nation.

The widening of I-81 from MD 68 to beyond I-70, done in conjunction with the extension of Halfway Boulevard, will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. An investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations and underserved communities in the quad-state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones. This project will also enable the development of new business parks, increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards. Further, as an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready corridor, I-81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change.

We appreciate your strong consideration of this joint application for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project. This application represents the strong partnership between Maryland, Washington County, and the private sector to leverage all available resources to complete this priority project. A federal investment in our community will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,



James A. Sears, Jr.
President, MD Operations

bc: Mike Eckard
Paul Frey
Anne Grealy
Jim Kercheval
Dave Kline
Tim Troxell
David Turner

March 3, 2021

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

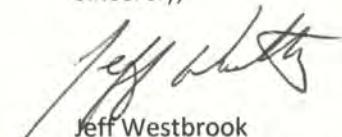
RE: I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I would like to offer my full support for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection project, a joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program. This Maryland section of I-81 is closed down on average at least once a week due to accidents that occur and in some cases, backing up traffic as far as 10 miles in either direction. There is only one viable alternative to I-81, which is US Rt. 11, which backs up as quickly as I-81 when there is an accident. The combination of the very short entrance ramps and only two lanes of traffic contribute significantly to the number of accidents. A third lane would greatly alleviate the congestion on a very busy section of our interstate. I have as many as 26 tractor trailers on the road daily and these accidents cause significant delays to my drivers getting into and out of our location very often causing delays in service to our customers. I understand accidents can never be eliminated entirely, but adding another lane, another exit, and/or alternative roadways would greatly help the flow of traffic and most certainly decrease the number of accidents on a daily basis. Connecting Rt. 63 to I-81 would give many local drivers a way around the most congested part of the area, bypassing the I-70 and I-81 interchange all together. The Halfway Blvd. Extension would have the same result. Instead of waiting in line to get on a congested interstate, many local drivers, including mine, would have the option to follow Halfway Blvd as far out as Exit 28 on I-70 past the I-81 interchange.

More open lanes on I-81, an extra exit and added routes will allow better access to all parts of the Hagerstown area helping the economy and local businesses in many ways. Pair this with the extension of Halfway Blvd. creating alternative routes, this will alleviate congestion, accidents and bottlenecks, creating a more efficient and much safer infrastructure of our local roadways. I appreciate your consideration in this matter and would strongly urge you to approve the measure for the safety and efficiency of the entire motoring public.

Sincerely,



Jeff Westbrook
Service Center Manager
R+L Carriers
Hagerstown, MD



Dawn C. Thomas, Practice Manager

Voice 240.313.9659, Email dthomas@robinwooddental.net
11110 Medical Campus Road, Suite 148, Hagerstown, MD 21742

March 1, 2021

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

RE: I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to offer my full support for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection project, a joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program. This project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along this designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. It also completes a long-planned county road that connects Interstate 81 with MD 63 via Halfway Boulevard, unlocking business development opportunities and equitable access to jobs, and providing alternative routes for freight traffic to both I-81 and I-70, improving regional freight mobility.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck that negatively affects the movement of freight along this nationally significant corridor. I-81 is estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Truck volume will only continue to increase with the boom in logistic companies opening up in the region. Further, this has proven to be critical this past year during the COVID-19 health crisis with getting essential items delivered throughout the region and around our nation.

The widening of I-81 from MD 68 to beyond I-70, done in conjunction with the extension of Halfway Boulevard, will be an enormous boost to the regional

economy. An investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in the quad-state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones. This project will also enable the development of new business parks, increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards. Further, as an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready corridor, I-81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change.

We appreciate your strong consideration of this joint application for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project. This application represents the strong partnership between Maryland, Washington County, and the private sector to leverage all available resources to complete this priority project. A federal investment in our community will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DOD".

March 5, 2021

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

RE: I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connections Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write on behalf of Sierra Nevada Corporation (SNC) to offer our full support for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection project, a joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program. This project will add a third lane in both directions on I-81 in Maryland and make related access improvements to increase operational capacity and mobility. These projects will address critical safety concerns along this designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region.

SNC has a major facility located near I-81 Exit 10 at the Hagerstown Regional Airport. SNC is a growing aerospace and defense company providing aircraft, equipment, software and services to customers. We employ more than 250 people at our Hagerstown facility designing, developing and manufacturing modifications to aircraft for the U.S. Government and foreign allies. Most of our employees commute via I-81. Our suppliers and Government customers also utilize this section of I-81 on a regular basis.

I-81 in Maryland is a disruptive bottleneck that presents a safety hazard to these travelers. I-81 is a vital supply path paralleling the string of major cities along the East Coast from New York to Richmond, VA. The 10 mile long Maryland portion alone presently carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Truck volume will only continue to grow with the boom in new distribution centers in the region because of this strategic positioning relevant to these large population centers. However, this high volume of trucking mixed with significant passenger car volume often results in exposing our employees, customers, and suppliers to the consequences of serious accidents and numerous traffic snarls and backups. In the winter these are amplified by the weather conditions in this region. Besides the danger, the daily congestion significantly increases employee driving times every day.

An investment in this project will support thousands of jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities. This project will enable the development of new business parks; increase freight access and connectivity; expand critically needed truck parking; and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, and associated air pollution.

We appreciate your strong consideration of this joint application for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project. This application represents the strong partnership between Maryland, Washington County, and the private sector to leverage all available resources to complete this priority project. A federal investment in our community will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services to our citizens and businesses.

Sincerely,



Kirk Slenker
Sr. Vice President
Mission Solutions and Technologies
Sierra Nevada Corporation
18632 Jarkey Drive
Hagerstown, MD 21742

March 1, 2021

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

RE: I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to offer my full support for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection project, a joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program. This project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along this designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. It also completes a long-planned county road that connects Interstate 81 with MD 63 via Halfway Boulevard, unlocking business development opportunities and equitable access to jobs, and providing alternative routes for freight traffic to both I-81 and I-70, improving regional freight mobility.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck that negatively affects the movement of freight along this nationally significant corridor. I-81 is estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Truck volume will only continue to increase with the boom in logistic companies opening up in the region. Further, this has proven to be critical this past year during the COVID-19 health crisis with getting essential items delivered throughout the region and around our nation.

The widening of I-81 from MD 68 to beyond I-70, done in conjunction with the extension of Halfway Boulevard, will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. An investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in the quad-state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones. This project will also enable the development of new business parks, increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards. Further, as an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready corridor, I-81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change. As an owner of an electric car, this is a real asset to me when traveling.

We appreciate your strong consideration of this joint application for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project. This application represents the strong partnership between Maryland, Washington County, and the private sector to leverage all available resources to complete this priority project. A federal investment in our community will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,

Carolyn J. Raber
Manager
Ten Thousand Villages Hagerstown



17301 Valley Mall Road
Hagerstown, MD 21740
Tel: 301.582.0701 • Fax: 301.582.1617

March 9, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing on behalf of over one hundred retail and restaurant establishments, to offer my full support for Washington County's application for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project, which will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along this designated freight corridor in our region. It also completes a long-planned county road that connects Interstate 81 with MD 63 via Halfway Boulevard. This improvement will assist the traffic flow to the hotels, retailers and restaurants on and around Halfway Boulevard.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck negatively affecting the movement of traffic in a corridor. The current status of the I-81 corridor negatively affects the retail and restaurant sales in the I-81/Halfway Boulevard area that cannot be reclaimed. When an accident occurs on I-81 in Maryland, it causes sales to drop at a **17-28%** rate for the day, depending on the length of time the accident back logs traffic.

The Valley Mall area draws patrons from four states and beyond, all of which travel the I-81 corridor. Pennsylvania and West Virginia make up almost 53%, more than half, of the patrons to the Halfway Blvd restaurants, retailers, and Valley Mall. This is confirmed by zip code collecting during sales transactions. These consumers spend their disposable income here in Maryland giving us additional tax revenue.

Yearly sales generated by Valley Mall alone, totals more than \$150 million annually, not to mention the other hotels and restaurants adjacent to our property. The improvements to traffic flow will help from deterring these patrons from coming over state lines to enjoy our amenities.

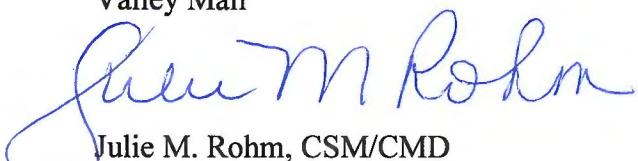
The widening of I-81 from MD 68 to beyond I-70, done in conjunction with the extension of Halfway Boulevard, will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. This connection will enable the employees of several businesses from Route 63 area, to easily access Halfway Boulevard restaurants during the lunch hour. This should increase sales by about 5% daily, giving more tax revenue to the state of Maryland. The extension of Halfway Blvd to Route 63 will also give the thousands of employees already working on Halfway Boulevard a secondary means to get to work during high traffic times. Both road improvements will help the area in attracting new businesses and jobs.

The crossroads of I-70 and I-81 are a pivotal travel change point. At Valley Mall we offer six multi-brand electric charging stations. We are eager to expand our offerings, however until traffic flow can improve; the company does not see the interest. The expansion of this offering is very important to the other businesses off of this exit as it allows for charging while patronizing the retail, hotel and restaurants in the area.

Interstate 81 is a main corridor for travelers coming from Canada. Monthly traffic from Canada off of Halfway Blvd alone currently ranges from 14 to 18%. These travelers have been made aware that the Halfway Boulevard exit is approximately halfway from Ontario Canada to Florida. The local Washington County Convention and Visitor's Bureau, has been promoting the "Halfway There" campaign for five years. As a result of their efforts, we have seen increased traffic yearly from Canadians.

We appreciate your consideration of the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project and Washington County's request for INFRA grant funding. This application represents the strong partnership of Washington County, the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration, and the private sector to leverage available resources to implement this priority project.

Sincerely,
Valley Mall



Julie M. Rohm, CSM/CMD
General Manager
Julie.rohm@preit.com



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

February 26, 2021

Subject: Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grant Program I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety.

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Hagerstown/Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) supports the effort to improve the Maryland portion of Interstate Highway 81. Maryland has submitted an Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant application for I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety to assist in the funding of this critical infrastructure improvement. The CVB supports this application and encourages its approval and funding.

Much has been stated about the need for improvements on Interstate 81 in Washington County Maryland. Safety is the highest priority concern, reliability, convenience, efficiency, supporting industry and generating commerce are also valid justifications and urgent needs. A failed highway puts us and many of our endeavors at risk including travel and tourism. Hagerstown and Washington County have a robust travel and tourism economy, National and State Parks are big attractions. We have recently enhanced our promotion of Underground Railroad sites, The John Brown Raid Headquarters, The Doleman Black Heritage Museum, and our historic African American residential district The Johnathan Street Corridor. All these Washington County destinations can be accessed from I-81.

Traveling a short distance or the length of the east coast 80,000 vehicles pass through Washington County on I-81 each day. The Convention and Visitors Bureau works hard to lure a percentage of those 80,000 vehicles into some of the 2,200 hotel rooms that support our tourism trade. Last year \$40 million was spent on lodging in Washington County more than \$109,000/day much of it left here by travelers on I-81. In Washington County 8 to 10% percent of the workforce is employed in tourism many along the I-81 corridor. We lure travelers off of I-81 by promoting the most efficient and attractive exits that a traveler could find. Quality hotels, dozens of restaurants, fuel, fast food, and an abundance of quality retail shopping opportunities serve tourists very well. The Convention and Visitors Bureau is delivering 2.75 million ads to travelers on I-81 in annually between Harrisburg PA and Woodstock VA. If you're traveling in this area and search on your smart phone or tablet for amenities our ads appear.

We need to improve I-81 and exploit it to grow our tourism economy. We need to design safe and attractive exits that invite travelers in to explore all we have to offer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Spedden".

Dan Spedden, President

Hagerstown-Washington County Convention & Visitors Bureau

76 16 Public Square, Hagerstown MD 21740 | 301-791-3246 | www.visit-hagerstown.com



March 16, 2021

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

RE: I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connections

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As Chairman of Volvo Group North America (VGNA) and President of Mack Trucks, I write to urge support for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection project, a joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program. This project will reduce congestion-related emissions, increase operational capacity, improve mobility needs and address critical safety concerns for employees as they travel to work and return home to their families.

One of the Volvo Group's largest facilities in North America, the Volvo Group powertrain production plant in Hagerstown, is the heart of Mack and Volvo trucks, Prevost coaches and Volvo buses, developing and manufacturing heavy-duty diesel engines, transmissions and axles for these brands in North America. In 2020, Hagerstown began manufacturing electric powertrain components for newly released models of battery electric trucks. The site is celebrating 60 years of manufacturing excellence in 2021 and employs approximately 1,500 people. VGNA is committed to its future in Hagerstown and has invested about \$350 million in the Hagerstown facility since 2001; this includes ongoing upgrade/expansion projects worth about \$70 million, which will increase employment opportunities in the community.

The current congestion and capacity constraints on I-81 directly impact the competitiveness of not only Hagerstown, but also our Volvo Construction Equipment headquarters and assembly plant in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania; Mack Trucks assembly plant in Macungie, Pennsylvania; and our Volvo Trucks assembly plant in Dublin, Virginia. These facilities are interconnected. Hagerstown sends both traditional diesel and electric powertrains to Dublin and Macungie for final assembly. These facilities have a combined annual \$5.1 billion economic impact in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, including an annual \$1.2 billion impact in Maryland. If the Hagerstown powertrain is the heart of our manufacturing facilities, I-81 is the vital artery connecting us.

Congestion caused by insufficient lanes leads to delayed freight and deliveries coming into and leaving our Hagerstown campus and ultimately makes the Volvo Group less competitive. When

our shipments are late arriving to the truck plants, there is a cost impact of \$1,500 a minute or \$90,000 an hour. Our facilities have integrated lean manufacturing schedules and any delays in receiving essential components used on Hagerstown's assembly lines can hinder the production of critical components needed in the final assembly at other VGNA shop floors. These bottlenecks create a domino effect across our entire production system and can result in late deliveries to our customers.

The Volvo Group is committed to meeting the ambitious goals of the Paris Agreement and achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. As part of that goal, globally we reduced the emissions of carbon dioxide transportation between our factories by 24 percent. Increasing the capacity of I-81 will reduce congestion-related emissions from the 19,400 trucks that travel this critical freight corridor daily.

We appreciate your consideration of this joint application for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project. This application represents the strong partnership between Maryland, Washington County, and the private sector to leverage all available resources to complete this priority project. A federal investment in this project will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,



Martin Weissburg
Chairman, Volvo Group North America
President, Mack Trucks



March 12, 2021

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

RE: I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I'm writing in support of the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection project, a joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program.

I urge you to support this project as an engine of economic opportunity for this region. My particular interest is in African American history and heritage, including heritage tourism. In recent years my colleagues and I have uncovered vibrant history of the Underground Railroad, Freedman's Bureau, and Civil Rights movement, situated in Washington County. Preservationists and community leaders have brought attention and resources to populations that are historically underserved by tourism and grants. Access to these historic and tourism sites depends on the safety and efficiency of I-81 and its connecting roads.

In addition, the safety of I-81 is important to me as a resident of Washington County. I actively avoid driving on I-81, because it's so dangerous, and my friends and family members also avoid it. The human toll in deaths and injuries on this highway is a major reason why I urge you to support the grant to improve it.

Sincerely yours,

Emilie Amt, D.Phil.
Hildegarde Pilgram Professor of History
Hood College
401 Rosemont Avenue
Frederick, MD 21701

13023 Lance Circle
Hagerstown, Maryland 21742

March 16, 2021

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

RE: I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of an application by Washington County and the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT-SHA) Infrastructure for Rebuilding American (INFRA) grant funding for the Interstate 81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project. This project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along this designated freight corridor in our rural, Appalachian region. It also completes a long-planned county road that connects Interstate 81 with MD 63 via Halfway Boulevard, unlocking business development opportunities and providing alternative routes for freight traffic to both I-81 and I-70. The connection of these two interstates is vital to the future movement of freight and commerce through Washington County, Maryland, and the East Coast. This project will ensure Washington County is able to attract new and retain existing businesses.

I along with my family are personally in support of this project because on May 3, 1998 my father, a volunteer firefighter was operating at a multi-fatal collision just south of this location when he was struck and killed by an inattentive driver. Too many families have suffered the loss of a family member along this section of Interstate Highway. Any form of improvement in the corridor would benefit safety as well as commerce.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck negatively affecting the movement of freight in a corridor estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion of I-81 alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Receipt of this grant funding will help maintain the I-81 Corridor's position as a national asset for freight movement for the next several decades.

The widening of I-81 from MD 68 to beyond I-70, done in conjunction with the extension of Halfway Boulevard, will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. In addition to supporting the thousands of jobs already in the corridor, it will enable the development of new business parks and increase freight access and connectivity while helping reduce traffic congestion and safety hazards.

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
Re: Interstate 81 Corridor in the State of Maryland
March 16, 2021

We appreciate your consideration for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project and Washington County's request for INFRA grant funding. This application represents the strong partnership of Washington County, the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration, and the private sector to leverage available resources to implement this priority project.

Sincerely,



Joseph Kroboth, III, PE, LS

March 1, 2021

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

Subject: 2021 INFRA grant for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connections Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg: One killed, five hurt in multivehicle I-81 crash



rear-view mirror. I quickly realized they were not slowing down and that all I had time to do was to turn my wheel toward the median. I do not remember anything that happened until after the accident. The truck ended up hitting me at full speed, sending my car into the median. The truck would then go on to hit 7 more cars in front of me before coming to a stop.

The first thing I remember I was walking around the median of 81 not really sure what was happening or where I was. I remember seeing a gentleman leaned up against the guardrail on the south bound side covered in blood. I looked down to see my white shirt had turned dark red, and blue jeans were purple from being soaked with blood. I saw my car in the median being covered with large blankets. The passenger in my car, Jasmine Rafter, had passed away. I was taken to Meritus, our local hospital, via ambulance. One gentleman was flown to shock trauma, and multiple people required hospital visits.

I have lived in Hagerstown, MD my whole life and frequently, almost daily, use I-81. As many people know it is a very dangerous stretch of highway and it is not uncommon for bad car accidents to occur here. On June 29, 2016 I was involved in a very serious and tragic accident. I was traveling in the northbound lanes around 4 PM when traffic came to a complete stand still. I was sitting there without moving for a few minutes when I noticed a tractor trailer in the





Physically I suffered a broken neck, my c4 to be exact. I tore a few muscles in the back of my neck and I also had a broken nose and multiple lacerations to my head and face. I required 14 staples in the side of my head, and a total of about 40 stitches in my forehead, nose, and lip. Along with these injuries I had a large variety of aches and pains. The physical damage was bad but did not compare to the psychological damage this accident caused me. Jasmine, who was 21, was my girlfriend of about 10 months at the time of the accident. I had never experienced a death of anyone close to me before. For the next year I suffered from severe depression, anxiety, panic attacks, and was diagnosed with PTSD.

I was terrified to drive and would avoid 81 for some time. I got panic attacks anytime I was in traffic or was in a car driving near a tractor trailer. If I was driving in town and someone approached a stop sign, I would automatically assume they'd run it and hit me. I would have random flash backs of the scene and seeing the truck in my rear view and go into panic attacks. All in all I saw about 4 therapist numerous times each. One for grief, one for depression, one for my anxiety/panic attacks, and one for my PTSD.



This is just my story. One person whose life changed because of one accident. Jasmine's mother lost her daughter, her brother lost his sister, her nieces lost their aunt, and many people lost a friend. I have no idea the damage it did do everyone else directly involved in the accident from the other cars, but just from my car, dozens of people were affected both directly and indirectly.

The inferior lane capacity of I-81 cannot handle the ever-growing amount of truck congestion, and the regular shutdowns in traffic following an accident put people's lives at risk. These were the prime factors that caused not only my accident, but many other crashes over the years. It's time for our public officials to finally fund the construction of an additional lane on I-81 that was originally planned nearly 15 years ago. Please support funding this INFRA grant request to prevent others from going through what I have.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Colvin
13514 SCARLET SAGE CT
HAGERSTOWN, MD 21740
(301) 991-1695



Washington County

MARYLAND

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

March 19, 2021

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

Subject: Infrastructure for Rebuilding America Grant Program – I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my strong support of the ongoing effort of the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) to widen I-81 in Maryland to six lanes along the 12-mile section between West Virginia and Pennsylvania. The Potomac River Bridge and Phase 1 Widening to Exit 1 on I-81 was completed in 2020 in collaboration with the West Virginia Department of Transportation. Washington County, MDOT SHA, and other private stakeholders have been working on the application for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program for the I-81 Phase 2 I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project from Exit 1 to Exit 5 (Halfway Boulevard Extended).

Washington County and MDOT SHA are seeking this grant to bridge the gap in construction funding for a project to address critical safety and traffic issues by expanding capacity and improving interchanges along this designated freight corridor in the Appalachian region. The I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project includes two components: a much-needed widening and upgrade of a 3.5-mile section of I-81, and a 0.6-mile extension of Halfway Boulevard to meet Maryland State Route 63 approximately 0.4 miles north of its interchange with I-70. This will create a new link between interstate interchanges on I-81 and I-70, opening land for development along this new road segment.

I-81 is essential to moving freight on the east coast, and thousands of regional jobs in Maryland, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania are dependent on I-81 to transport freight through Western Maryland. The I-81 corridor in Maryland slows the movement of freight in a corridor that is estimated to carry as much as 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product each year. The Maryland portion of I-81 alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1 percent of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. The I-81 Corridor Widening Project will increase operational capacity and position the corridor to serve as a national asset for freight movement for the next several decades.

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg

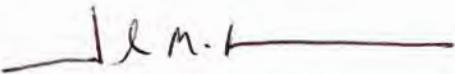
March 19, 2021

Page 2

In addition to creating new capacity, the I-81 Corridor Widening Project will improve safety by reconstructing several hazardous entry and exit ramps to create safer merging and exiting. Crash rates along the 12-mile segment of I-81 in Maryland doubled between 2010 and 2015 and increased by an additional 35 percent between 2015 and 2018, with an increasingly high percentage of truck-involved incidents. Crash data from 2015 through 2019 show that the truck-related crash rate along I-81 is nearly three times the statewide average. The State of West Virginia completed a similar expansion project along the I-81 corridor in 2011 that resulted in a significant reduction in crashes. Additionally, the planned Halfway Boulevard Extension to Maryland Route 63 will serve as an effective I-70 connector and bypass, providing a critical alternative should an accident occur.

Thank you for your consideration of the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection, INFRA grant application. If you have any questions regarding my support for this project, please do not hesitate to contact me at 240.313.2202.

Sincerely,



John M. Martirano
County Administrator