

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 31, 2023

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

**Subject: Support for Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Grant
Application for East Bay Greenway Multimodal Project**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We are writing to express support for the Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) RCN grant application for the East Bay Greenway Multimodal: Lake Merritt to Bayfair project. The project will construct a regional trail bikeway facility and complete streets improvements along streets parallel and connecting to the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) line through the cities of Oakland and San Leandro, spanning 10.6 miles. The project will address infrastructure barriers, reconnect communities and neighborhoods between the Lake Merritt BART station and the Bay Fair BART station, and improve people's lives. It will help meet local, state, and national goals and priorities of safety, economic strength, equity, climate and sustainability, and transformation.

According to Alameda CTC, the East Bay Greenway will provide an all ages and abilities bikeway "spine" that connects neighborhoods and provides access to destinations including transit, commercial districts, affordable housing, community colleges, regional open spaces, schools, social services, parks, hospitals, and job centers. Alameda CTC reports that project will improve safety for vulnerable bicyclists and pedestrians along streets that have been identified as part of the countywide high injury network.

The project will also provide healthy and affordable mobility options in disadvantaged communities identified as regional equity priority communities that have low levels of access to automobiles and high asthma rates. According to Alameda CTC, the project has already obtained \$58 million in federal and state funds. Alameda CTC is requesting \$30 million in RCN funds which will be matched with local, self-help transportation funds to fully fund the project.

We request that you give the Alameda CTC's RCN grant application full and fair consideration of Alameda CTC's application consistent with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Barbara Lee

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Eric Swalwell

Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress