

July 9, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
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 Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Aviation Administration's (MDOT MAA) application for Rebuilding American Infrastructure for Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant funding for the *BWI Marshall Airport Roadway, Multi-Modal and Cargo Modernization Planning Study*. This critical project aligns strongly with the primary selection criteria providing significant safety, state of good repair, economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability, and quality of life benefits to the State of Maryland.

The *BWI Marshall Airport Roadway, Multi-Modal and Cargo Modernization Planning Study* is needed for MDOT MAA to adapt and modernize the airport infrastructure and surrounding State and county roadways to the changing public ground transportation needs as well as the evolving local market and commercial development patterns as it relates to air cargo and surface delivery logistics. Currently undeveloped, the 400+ acre Southwest quadrant of the airport campus has been held in reserve for future aeronautical and commercial development. Market and capacity demands are now triggering the need for phased development of that area sooner rather than later. A flexible development roadmap that identifies carrying capacity and site constraints as well as utility and roadway access demands is needed to maximize the employment potential and economic health of the region and the State of Maryland.

I urge you to favorably consider this important project and invest in MDOT MAA's efforts to ensure that the Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport enhances economic opportunity and remains the "easy come, easy go" airport of choice in the DC-Baltimore region. The application demonstrates the project's substantial benefits, and the State of Maryland is prepared to commit the required match of the grant funds.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Heather Murphy, MDOT Office of Planning and Capital Programming (OPCP) Director, at 410-865-1275 or hmurphy@mdot.state.md.us. Of course, you may always contact me directly.

Sincerely,



Gregory Slater
Secretary

cc: Ms. Heather Murphy, Director, Office of Planning and Capital Programming, MDOT