



February 22, 2024

Secretary Peter Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, District of Columbia 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Maryland Tourism Coalition fully supports the Maryland Aviation Administration's (MAA) application for a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant to help fund **the BWI Marshall Airport Multi-Modal Ground Transportation Center & Automated People Mover Planning Study** (Planning Study). The Planning Study aligns with MAA's mission to "*foster the vitality of aviation statewide and promote safe and efficient operations, economic viability, and environmental stewardship,*" and would demonstrate a commitment to the U.S. DOT's objectives of safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, mobility and community connectivity, economic competitiveness and opportunity, state of good repair, partnership and collaboration, and innovation.

The Planning Study is needed to modernize key airport infrastructure, streamline the passenger journey to and from BWI Marshall Airport, and improve employment and visitor access at and surrounding the airport. This study will address changing public and employee transportation needs and incorporate evolving opportunities and technologies as they relate to modes of travel, advanced mobility, and climate resilience.

As the 22<sup>nd</sup> busiest airport in the United States, with substantial projected passenger growth in the Washington-Baltimore region, BWI Marshall is challenged to accommodate passenger demands and maximize land use within its campus. Concepts will be developed for an efficient and fiscally prudent centrally located ground transportation center and automated people mover that connects key facilities at and around the airport. These concepts will address capacity needs and the traveler experience, while achieving regional and local objectives of improving safety, reducing emissions, minimizing environmental impacts, and improving access to employment opportunities. The Planning Study would include an investment roadmap developed in close collaboration with agency partners and local stakeholders, to maximize the economic health of the region in an equitable, resilient and sustainable manner.

The Maryland Tourism Coalition looks forward to collaborating with MAA on the BWI Marshall Airport Multi-Modal Ground Transportation Center & Automated People Mover Planning Study and thanks you for your consideration of investment in this important planning initiative.

Sincerely,

Ruth Toomey

Ruth Toomey  
Executive Director  
Maryland Tourism Coalition