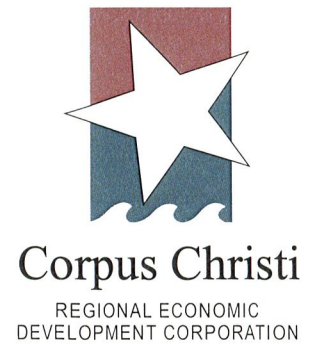


April 7, 2022

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



To the Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Corpus Christi Regional Economic Development Corporation, I write this letter to support the City of Corpus Christi's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant application for the **Yorktown Boulevard Complete Streets Project**. The Project, located on the Southside of Corpus Christi, will increase capacity and resiliency of the asset while improving safety conditions for bicyclists and pedestrians traveling along the corridor. Yorktown Boulevard is south of Texas State Highway (SH) 358 and runs parallel to SH 358 between the Flour Bluff and Southside areas, which are both experiencing population growth and expanding development. This is the fastest growing area of Corpus Christi, and definitely needs federal assistance in keeping up with new infrastructure needs.

The Project will reconstruct Yorktown Boulevard from Rodd Field Road in the community of Southside to the Oso Creek Bridge east toward the historically economically disadvantaged area of Flour Bluff, expanding the corridor from two (2) lanes to four (4) lanes with a landscaped median, separated bike facilities, and ADA sidewalk on both sides of the road. Drainage improvements are also a critical element of the project. In addition, to further improve this corridor, TxDOT will be participating in the replacement and improvements to the Oso Creek Bridge, known locally as the Mud Bridge.

Without adequate emergency evacuation routes from Flour Bluff to what we would consider the "mainland," the extreme weather conditions resulting from climate change are leaving residents within the Southside and Flour Bluff areas susceptible to storm impacts. We are exposed to hurricanes on the Texas Coast, and we desperately need an improved way to evacuate residents from Flour Bluff during emergencies. For emergency evacuations, the City includes two designated emergency evacuation routes to move traffic movement inland from Flour Bluff including Yorktown Boulevard and SH 358. SH 358 is a limited access freeway that crosses Oso Bay and the only connection to Padre Island. Padre Island only has a single bridge onto and off the island, so that is a further dangerous situation in times of emergency. Yorktown Boulevard is the only alternative evacuation route to SH 358 because it also crosses the Oso Bay. The Project is the next step in the City's effort to improve community resilience by improving east-west service capacity for the area's only other evacuation alternative. The project will also improve community connectivity and provide critical safety improvements for residents and visitors to the area through multimodal facilities and access management.

Simply put, the project is absolutely necessary due to rapid population growth in the area, and the conditions during times of emergency like hurricanes. Your help in moving this request forward would be much appreciated.

Sincerely,

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

Iain Vasey
President & CEO
Corpus Christi Regional Economic Development Corporation