



April 8, 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 the United Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce, I write this letter to support the City of Corpus Christi's (City) Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant application for the Yorktown Boulevard Complete Streets Project (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.

The Project will reconstruct Yorktown Boulevard from Rodd Field Road in the community of Southside to the Oso Creek Bridge east toward the historically 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, the extreme weather conditions resulting from climate change are leaving residents within the Southside and Flour Bluff areas susceptible to storm impacts. For emergency evacuations, the City includes two designated emergency evacuation routes to usher 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. 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.

The Yorktown Boulevard corridor is vital to local economic and community development in the Southside and Flour Bluff areas. From the Chamber's perspective, the Project will support thousands of small businesses and jobs. Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'John LaRue'.

John LaRue
President & CEO