

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 29, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We write to express our support for the Vermont Agency of Transportation's (VTrans) application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program (CDFA #20.938) for the Reconstruction of Vermont Route 78 (VT-78). We are pleased to bring this proposal to your attention.

VT-78 is a 21-mile east-west state highway in northwestern Vermont. Beginning at U.S. Route 2 in Alburgh near the New York and Canadian borders, VT-78 runs southeast to VT 105 in Sheldon. It is one of two routes connecting the Vermont mainland to the Champlain Islands and serves as a major freight corridor connecting the northern part of the state with New York and Canada. This critical roadway is in dire need of repair and redesign work to achieve a state of good repair and address longstanding deficiencies in the existing roadway design.

With the requested funding, VTrans will begin to construct a new VT-78 roadway and incorporate safety components to mitigate high crash locations, including appropriate road widening. The project will also incorporate storm water improvements to ensure resilience and mitigate against future flooding. VTrans has completed the design process, and the project is ready to go to construction.

Thank you for giving this application the careful consideration it deserves. If we can provide further evidence of our support for this proposal, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



BERNARD SANDERS
United States Senator



PETER WELCH
United States Senator



BECCA BALINT
Member of Congress