

VICE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

CHAIR OF THE SMALL BUSINESS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC GROWTH,
TAX, AND CAPITAL ACCESS

MEMBER OF THE
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

U.S. House of Representatives
Rep. Sharice Davids
Kansas Third District

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May 31, 2022

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

Dear Mister Secretary,

As the United States Representative for the Third District of Kansas, I am writing to express my support for the U.S. Department of Transportation RAISE grant application submitted by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) for the Flint Hills Trail project.

This grant will support the improvement of 40.5 miles of the Flint Hills Trail between Council Grove and Herington, Kansas, eventually expanding the trail to its full length of 118 miles. The initiative repurposes former railroad infrastructure, creating accessible, safe, active transportation options for pedestrians, cyclists, and equestrians. The complete Flint Hills Trail will benefit all Kansans, but particularly the nineteen communities directly impacted by the trail: promoting opportunities for outdoor recreation, civic pride, and overall quality of life.

The Flint Hills Trail is the backbone for 157 miles of interconnected trails across East Central Kansas. This project will not only support the expansion of the Flint Hills Trail, but also serve as a catalyst for sustained future growth of tourism and recreation industries in this region of Kansas and the neighboring trails. Once completed, the developments are expected to garner fourteen new jobs, support \$423,272 in labor income, and contribute \$1.3 million in output to regional firms annually.

As Vice Chair of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee as well as the House Small Business Committee, my priorities include working in a bipartisan manner to generate economic opportunities for my constituents. This project will assist Kansans in accessing jobs associated with travel, tourism, and outdoor recreation and has my strong support.

I kindly request that you give your full and fair consideration to the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks' RAISE grant application. If you have any questions, please contact my District Office Manager, Emma Swinney, at 913-530-2239.

Sincerely,



Sharice Davids
Member of Congress