

March 1, 2022

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

RE: City of East Moline "Greater Downtown Revitalization Project"  
RAISE Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the City of East Moline, IH Mississippi Valley Credit Union is writing in support of the rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant application for the City of East Moline Greater Downtown Revitalization Project.

The proposed project addresses numerous issues within a blighted downtown district, and the two manufacturer brownfield redevelopment sites (The Quarter and The Bend). The city of East Moline has drastically suffered since the early 80's due to the major decline in manufacturing. Much of this was a result of manufacturers going overseas and factories closing across the rust belt region in the United States. Recently, the Bend and Rust Belt developments have begun to bring life back to an area that experienced devastating economic hardship. This project will help build on that momentum and revive the greater downtown area as a vibrant business and entertainment district.

East Moline's project will also create a regional, multi-modal oriented destination for business, entertainment, and living that will drive economic and community activity. "Complete streets" implemented through the greater downtown area will provide safe, accessible connections for vehicles, pedestrians, buses, trains, boats, and bicyclists to the established commercial cores, nearby residential neighborhoods, Mississippi River Trail, and the Mississippi River. It will also dramatically enhance the area and create a uniform sense of identity to East Moline's "Greater Downtown" area with lighting, landscaping, gateway signs, wayfinding signs, parks, and green stormwater infrastructure.

IHMVCU has a vested interest in East Moline's downtown area. One of the Credit Union's original branches has operated on the edge of the East Moline downtown for roughly 35 years. Lindsey Ramos, SVP Member Experience, has been a long time member of the East Moline Main Street Committee. IHMVCU applauds the City's collaborative efforts aimed at increasing accessibility of improving motorist, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian safety, and connecting regions in the community to help create development, business, and job growth.

IHMVCU fully endorses the City's RAISE Grant application and respectfully requests that you give it fair and full consideration. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard P. Schloemer

Community Outreach Coordinator