

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 12, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We write to express our support for the application submitted the Boston Transportation Department for the proposed *ReConnecting Chinatown* project.

Boston's historic Chinatown is the third-largest in the United States and the largest Chinatown in New England. This thriving neighborhood was harshly bisected in the 1960s through the construction of two successive interstate development projects. Land was seized from the neighborhood, demolishing homes and central community assets to make room for the Southeast Expressway (I-93) and the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90). Chinatown is the most polluted neighborhood in Massachusetts as a result of its proximity to these highways, according to research by the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Since the urban renewal era, the Boston Chinatown community has engaged with both the private and the public sectors on urban policy, planning and development. Their efforts helped to preserve affordable housing, establish human service agencies, and sustain local businesses and cultural spaces, so that Chinatown remains the touchstone for the Asian American community in Boston. These anchor agencies continue to advocate for the needs of residents who struggle to afford their basic needs, and their community's priorities are documented in visioning and planning documents that guide improvements to the public realm.

The City of Boston is seeking a two-year grant to carry out a community-driven process for the use of land parcels and air rights to create a community outdoor space that promotes connectivity, improves air quality and public health, and promote carbon-free travel. This pilot program provides the opportunity to update plans and collaborate with state and local government to reconnect the Boston Chinatown community through public realm improvements, while building in safeguards against displacement. We ask that you give this application your full and fair consideration. Thank you for your attention this request.

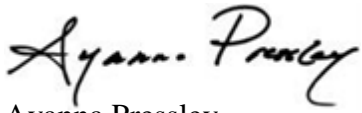
Sincerely,



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress