

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 8, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

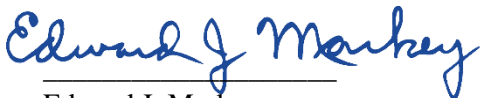
We write to express our support for the joint application by the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission (MVPC) and the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG) for a FY2022 Safe Streets for All Comprehensive Planning Action Grant.

These neighboring Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and regional planning agencies have joined forces to create an ambitious, far-reaching regional transit safety plan through an inclusive and equity-focused process. To help guide this effort, both MPOs will draw upon their strong partnerships with their combined 24 member communities, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, the Lowell Regional Transit Authority, the Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority, and local stakeholders in communities that range from small, rural towns to large urban centers.

The two regions include four Gateway Cities—Haverhill, Lawrence, Lowell, and Methuen—that are home to large immigrant communities and are among the most racially and culturally diverse places in Massachusetts. The four cities alone bear the weight of 51% of the fatalities and serious injuries due to vehicular crashes in the region. In their planning process, MVPC and NMCOG will pay particularly close attention to improving transit safety in these underserved communities, with a focus on how the intersecting crises of poverty, language access, racism, and other inequities contribute to transit accidents. With those concerns in mind, the MPOs are planning an inclusive safety review that incorporates extensive community input and addresses each city's unique needs to reach a goal of zero transit-related fatalities and serious injuries in both regions.

This remarkable cross-regional, cross-agency partnership represents a key opportunity to advance transit, racial, and economic justice in Massachusetts while meeting the central goals of the Safe Streets for All program. We encourage you to give MVPC and NMCOG's application your fair and full consideration. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress