



Tim May  
Chairman

August Neff  
Vice-Chairman

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**ERIE AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY • METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

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April 21, 2021

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

**Re: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Connecting Erie's Waterfront: Sassafras Street Extension Pedestrian Bridge**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's (PennDOT) funding request for the Sassafras Street Extension Pedestrian Bridge. A steep vertical grade change and parkway create a physical barrier for residents, workers, and visitors who bike, or walk to and from the area's many destinations. This pedestrian bridge will connect the Downtown Business Opportunity Zone and residential neighborhoods to the waterfront by going over the bluff and Bayfront Parkway traffic. This is especially crucial to the low income and minority residents who live in those neighborhoods.

With this funding, the project will immediately have a significant and transformative impact on the region. The Connecting Erie's Waterfront project was designed to complement more than \$750 million in ongoing private, public, and philanthropic investments in Erie. Simply put, it reinforces the ongoing revitalization of Downtown Erie and the surrounding rural areas who depend on the economic benefits of this vital multimodal connection.

Thank you for your efforts to improve our nation's transportation. If I can be of any assistance to demonstrate the importance of this project, please contact the MPO at (814) 451-7325.

Sincerely,

Tim May  
Chairman, Erie MPO