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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

February 27, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
Department of Transportation
Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: US Department of Transportation RAISE Grant Program
Borough of Carteret, NJ Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of Middlesex County, I am thrilled to provide this letter of support for the Borough of Carteret's application to the Department of Transportation's RAISE Grant Program.

The proposed intermodal transportation building and surrounding infrastructure is a major initiative for the Borough and will have significant impact throughout Middlesex County. We have a population of 863,162 in Middlesex County. Many of these residents commute to New York City daily. The construction of an intermodal transportation building and the addition of ferry service between Carteret and both the Financial District and Midtown Manhattan will provide a fast, affordable public transportation commuting option for thousands of residents. It will also remove automobiles from our heavily trafficked roadways, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and traffic problems.

This project is clearly aligned with Destination 2040, Middlesex County's strategic plan shaping how the County will grow and evolve. Destination 2040 prioritizes access to reliable, efficient, and safe transportation, and recognizes this is a critical component of quality of life, economic opportunity, and positive health outcomes. The development of an intermodal transportation building and the addition of ferry service will provide our residents with new economic development opportunities and improve transportation in and around Middlesex County.

The intermodal transportation building and surrounding infrastructure will create an anchor for three forms of public surface transportation into and out of the Borough and into New York City via a new ferry service. It will reduce carbon emissions, reduce excessive traffic problems on nearby Interstate 95/NJ Turnpike, and increase the public transit options for commuters in one of the most densely populated parts of the country.

I hope you will review the Borough of Carteret's RAISE Grant application favorably.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ronald G. Rios'.

Ronald G. Rios, Director

