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John W. Bartlett, Chair  
David W. Behrend, Executive Director

February 23, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant  
Program Application, Borough of Carteret, New Jersey

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA), I am writing in support of the the Borough of Carteret's application to the Department of Transportation's RAISE Grant Program. The NJTPA is the federally authorized Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for 7 million people in the 13-county northern New Jersey region.

The Borough of Carteret's intermodal transportation project will improve the region's transportation infrastructure and facilitate more environmentally friendly, efficient transit options for thousands of people who travel daily between New Jersey and New York. It will serve as an anchor point for three forms of public surface transportation into and out of the Borough and into New York City via the new ferry service. It will reduce carbon emissions, reduce excessive traffic problems on nearby Interstate 95/New Jersey Turnpike, and increase public transit options for commuters in one of the most densely populated parts of the country.

The proposed project is entirely consistent with the policies, goals and priorities of the NJTPA's current long-range transportation plan, *Plan 2050: Transportation. People. Opportunity*. The plan calls for expanding ferry options between New Jersey and New York City as part of a comprehensive, multimodal approach to regional transit.

For these reasons and given the importance of this project for the continued progress of our region, I am pleased to lend the NJTPA's support to the Borough of Carteret's RAISE Grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David W. Behrend', written in a cursive style.

David W. Behrend  
Executive Director