

MARIA CANTWELL
WASHINGTON



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

March 20, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing in support of the City of Port Angeles' application to the FY2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program for the Puget Sound to Pacific project. The City of Port Angeles is requesting \$17 million in RAISE funding to support planning projects that will complete gaps in the Great American Rail-Trail from the Bainbridge Island Ferry Terminal to the Pacific Coastline at La Push.

Once complete, the Great American Rail-Trail will span more than 3,700 miles across 12 states, beginning in Washington, D.C., and ending at the Pacific Ocean in Washington state. These rail-trails, public trails created from former railroad corridors, are multiuse paths ideal for many modes of active transportation including walking, biking, skating, cross-country skiing, and horseback riding.

The Great American Rail-Trail project is a signature project of the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, with the Bainbridge Island Parks and Trails Foundation spearheading the effort to complete 100 miles of gaps in the 200 total trail miles between the Bainbridge Island Ferry Terminal and the Pacific Coastline. According to the Conservancy, in Washington state the trail is estimated to generate 240 new jobs and \$24.9 million in annual visitor spending, among other economic benefits. RAISE funding will be used to help locate the routes and design the trails to complete existing gaps.

This project is a collaborative effort between the Bainbridge Island Parks and Trails Foundation, the North Kitsap Trails Association, and the Peninsula Trails Coalition with support from co-applicants, including the Washington State Department of Transportation, City of Bainbridge Island, Suquamish Tribe, Kitsap County, City of Port Townsend, Port of Port Townsend, City of Forks, Jefferson County, and Clallam County.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of the City of Port Angeles' application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maria Cantwell". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator