



October 4, 2022

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

RE: Letter of Support – Reed Market Grade Separation Project Development

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Bend Chamber's 1,650 business members and over 8,000 business throughout Central Oregon, we appreciate the opportunity to provide comments related to the City of Bend's Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) grant application. The grant will support planning activities for the construction of a bridge over the Burlington Northern/Santa Fe (BNSF) railroad tracks on Reed Market Road. This corridor is a critical is a major east / west arterial in the City and provides a wide variety of economic benefits to the City of Bend, Deschutes County, and the State of Oregon. The Chamber has long supported the City's efforts to improve traffic flow and congestion in this growing area of our City.

This project will directly benefit Bend businesses on and near this important corridor. Traffic volumes on Reed Market have increased substantially as the south and eastern portions of the city develop. Significant delays are experienced where the road crosses the BNSF railroad tracks between American Lane and 9th Street. Delays can be as long as 15 minutes, with an average of between 4 and 5 minutes, approximately 8 times per day. The unpredictable nature of train crossings and resulting congestion impacts access to local businesses, which this project would help mitigate. The Reed Market Over-crossing project will provide significant benefits to the local businesses and residents who rely on this vital corridor. We urge your support for this project and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katy Brooks", is written over a thin vertical line that extends downwards from the signature.

Katy Brooks  
President + CEO  
Bend Chamber of Commerce

Creating an environment where businesses, their employees and our community excel together through collaboration, advocacy, resources and leadership to meet Bend's business challenges.