

ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.
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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 20, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write today in support of the application from the City of Philadelphia to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Multimodal Projects Discretionary Grant Program (MPDG) for its Roosevelt Boulevard project. I urge you to give this project full and fair consideration.

Roosevelt Boulevard, which is part of the larger U.S. Route 1, is a major urban artery running through North and Northeast Philadelphia. I understand that it is one of Philadelphia's most important and busy corridors, carrying 75,000 – 90,000 vehicles per day and serving ten different Southeastern Pennsylvania Transit Authority (SEPTA) transit routes. I am told that one in three Philadelphians, approximately 530,000 people, live within one mile of this critical road, which connects people with jobs, school and other important resources throughout the city.

However, the City of Philadelphia informs me that Roosevelt Boulevard is one of the most dangerous roadways in both the city and in the Nation. According to their data, crashes along Roosevelt Boulevard have killed at least 67 people and serious injured 100 others since 2016. Nearly one-third of those killed were pedestrians trying to cross Roosevelt Boulevard's twelve lanes. I am also told that over the last five years, 14 percent of all traffic deaths in Philadelphia have happened on the Boulevard. This presents an immediate danger to the safety and well-being of residents of the city.

To address this persistent safety issue, I understand that the City of Philadelphia intends to install traffic safety countermeasures in over 45 locations along Roosevelt Boulevard. This includes traffic signal upgrades and modernization, intersection reconfigurations, new median barriers and pedestrian refuge islands, improved curb ramps and realigned cross walks. The City of Philadelphia has emphasized that these enhancements will drastically improve the safety of both pedestrians and drivers along Roosevelt Boulevard and rectify a serious threat to the wellbeing of Philadelphians.

In addition, I am told that the project involves the installation of Business Access and Transit (BAT) lanes in the outermost lanes in each direction of Roosevelt Boulevard. This will make it

easier for buses to travel along the Boulevard without competition from cars, which can lead to accidents and other safety risks. I also understand that the City will improve transit stops along the Boulevard so that bus passengers can wait safely away from traffic.

The City of Philadelphia tells me that many of the residents along Roosevelt Boulevard live in "Transportation Disadvantaged" areas, which has hampered efforts to improve economic conditions. I understand that with funding from the MPDG, the City hopes to make meaningful transportation safety improvements to Roosevelt Boulevard that prevent tragedies, connect communities and improve the quality of life for hundreds of thousands of Philadelphians.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration. Please include this letter in the official record of the application. Consistent with all applicable laws, rules and regulations, I also respectfully request that you keep me informed of the status of this grant application. Finally, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact me or my staff at (202) 224-6851.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Casey". The signature is written in black ink and is contained within a thin black rectangular border.

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator