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## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

March 19, 2024

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

### RE: FY23-FY24 Bridge Investment Program Grant Program Letter of Support for the City of Kansas City, Missouri Bridge Investment Package – Bridging Kansas City to the Future

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I was asked to write in support of the City of Kansas City's Bridge Investment Program (BIP) Grant application to replace nine bridges in Kansas City that connect our community, carry freight and active transportation users and/or are in historically disadvantaged communities, and have an average age of 81 years.

The nine bridges identified in the grant application are all located within Kansas City, Missouri and represent historic connections between neighborhoods, families, and communities. They are heavily used by active transportation users and provide for light and heavy freight movement throughout Kansas City. Kansas City's economy is driven by services and manufacturing, and these bridges are vital economic access points and community connectors. Collectively, these bridges carry nearly 53,000 vehicles per day. They allow the underserved populations to access the jobs, goods, recreation, and services they depend on. They move the visitors that support the area's tourism industry, and they move goods throughout the Kansas City, the region, and eventually the nation.

These nine bridges are all currently load-restricted and/or rated as poor or will be rated as poor within a few years. The impacts of having this many load-restricted bridges in one region ripples throughout the community and often creates an outsized burden on the region's vulnerable populations. The nine bridges need replacement to remove limitations on mobility and improve safety in the region.

I fully support the City of Kansas City and this project. This grant will create a safer and more resilient transportation system for all who live, work, and visit this region of the United States.

Sincerely,

Emanuel Cleaver II  
Member of Congress

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