Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

January 17, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg Secretary of Transportation US Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We are writing to express our support for the City of Boston's and Massachusetts Department of Transportation's (MassDOT) joint application to the United States Department of Transportation's Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) grant program. If awarded, this project will transform the Allston neighborhood of Boston by rebuilding a deficient section of Interstate 90 to open up new land for development, increase access to multimodal transit, and reconnect the neighborhood with open space along the Charles River waterfront¹.

These federal dollars would support the city's efforts to connect communities separated by Interstate 90 and advance environmental justice (EJ) in these neighborhoods. Modernizing this stretch of the interstate will create space for the construction of West Station which would connect commuter rail, bus, shuttles, and bike share opportunities, and greatly enhance transportation access for EJ communities. The station will support four tracks and three platforms for the MBTA commuter rail with opportunities for future rail service to Cambridge, and support for improved West-East rail connections. The new interstate would also provide a unique opportunity for equitable economic and workforce development through the creation of 3,800 new construction jobs, and the economic growth it enables is projected to create 12,400 permanent jobs from new residential, institutional, and commercial development with significant opportunity for new affordable housing and civic spaces².

We respectfully request that you give the City of Boston's application your fair and full consideration. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Warren United States Senator

Edward J. Markey United States Senator

¹ A Better City, " Economic Benefits of the I-90 Allston Multimodal Project", 2022, <u>https://www.abetter-city.org/docs-new/publications/Allston%20Economic%20Impact%20Report.pdf</u> ² *id*

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