



SALLIE ALCORN
Houston City Council Member
At-Large, Position 5

February 20, 2023

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

RE: Letter of Support for Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County's (METRO) FY 2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Grant for the Westheimer Bus Operations Optimized Service Treatment (BOOST) Project.

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to you today on behalf of the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, TX (METRO) in support of their application for the 82 Westheimer BOOST Project.

The 82 Westheimer is currently the highest-ridership bus route in the METRO system, extending 19 miles and serving over 13,000 boardings on an average weekday. I am a frequent passenger on the 82 Westheimer and have witnessed firsthand the route's importance to the Houston community and economy. Connecting four of the region's largest employment and retail centers, the Westheimer BOOST will provide riders with enhanced access to schools, shopping, healthcare facilities, libraries, community centers and parks. Although the 82 Westheimer is one of the highest frequency routes METRO operates, the bus is often close to capacity with students, workers, and families during my commute to the office. The Westheimer BOOST will serve low income, historically disadvantaged communities along the majority of its route. The RAISE grant will support vital regional goals, including:

- Improve overall customer experience and comfort, service reliability and passenger amenities.
- Provide priority treatment for buses which will reduce transit passenger delay resulting in competitive transit travel times to destinations served.
- Increase overall system connectivity to major north-south transit corridors, expanding the destination opportunities of transit patrons.
- Enhanced bicycle and pedestrian safety with crosswalk improvements at intersections, widened sidewalks and shared use bike paths.
- Provide attractive transit service that achieves even higher ridership enabling continued economic growth while reducing vehicle miles of travel and on-road vehicle emissions.

METRO and I share the goal of increased transportation equity and a sustainable future for the Houston area. Thank you for your leadership during this critical time for our nation. I welcome the opportunity to work with you and your staff to sustainably strengthen our nation's communities and our economy.

Sincerely,



Sallie Alcorn