

August 8, 2023

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to request you provide full and fair consideration of the application submitted by Stafford County for the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) funding opportunity as awarded by the Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation.

As I understand it, the purpose of this program is to ensure surface transportation resilience to natural hazards including climate change, sea level rise, flooding, extreme weather events, and other natural disasters through support of planning activities, resilience improvements, community resilience and evacuation routes, and at-risk coastal infrastructure.

If awarded, Stafford County intends to use funds for the Brooke Road Flood Mitigation and Resiliency project, which seeks to raise and realign Brooke Road, thereby providing a safer, more resilient travel surface while relocating the road out of a floodplain. Portions of Brooke Road frequently experience flooding during storm events and become impassable for extended periods of time, isolating more than 600 residents and restricting access to food, water, shelter, places of work, and emergency services. It is expected that the flooding in this area will be exacerbated by the predicted future increases in precipitation intensity and that Brooke Road may also be influenced by sea-level rise as Accokeek Creek becomes tidally influenced due to its flow into the Potomac River.

The Brooke Road Flood Mitigation and Resiliency project is currently underway with engineering work, therefore additional funding would be used for design and construction. Stafford County is working in collaboration with the Virginia Department of Transportation and has committed \$2.1M of the total project cost in its Capital Improvement Program to date.

I thank you for your time and attention to this grant application, as well as your service to the constituents of Virginia's Seventh District.

Kind Regards,



Abigail Spanberger
Member of Congress