



Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
Washington, DC

4.1.2022

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of Coca-Cola in Chattanooga, I am writing to communicate my support for the City of Chattanooga as they pursue a grant through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant funding. The City is pursuing this grant to replace the 70-year old Wilcox Boulevard Bridge over the DeButts Railyard, owned and operated by Norfolk Southern Railway, and over additional tracks operated by CSX Railway. The existing structure can no longer support freight trucks or emergency vehicles, does not offer a safe passageway for pedestrians or bicyclists to cross this large rail facility, and continues to rapidly deteriorate.

A replacement structure is vital to the community and to the transportation network at this location. Having lived in Chattanooga my entire life, I've witnessed the traffic of the Wilcox Bridge. It is a major source for, not only, distribution companies such as ours, but also for Public transportation. It is crucial in allowing residents in many lower income areas access to Amnicola Highway which is the major transportation avenue for our two public universities.

Thank you for considering this project by the City for a RAISE grant, and I look forward to one-day seeing a new structure with multimodal facilities at this location become a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darren Hodges". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Darren Hodges
Division Director
Coca-Cola Bottling Company UNITED