

IRON WORKERS LOCAL UNION NO. 704
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BRIDGE, STRUCTURAL, ORNAMENTAL AND REINFORCING IRON WORKERS

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RYAN SCOTT
President



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

Tuesday, April 5, 2022

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express the support of the Iron Workers Local 704 for the 2022 RAISE Grant application for the replacement of the Wilcox Boulevard Bridge – River to Ridge Mobility Project. As a member of the Chattanooga Building and Construction Trades, we are enthusiastic about the opportunity to collaborate with the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), and the City of Chattanooga on this important project for our community.

In addition to the community value of replacing an aging bridge that connects our most vulnerable neighbors to vital sectors of our local economy, this project is a clear opportunity for our members to help build a critical piece of local infrastructure that could stand for decades. We are fortunate to have a strong relationship with Mayor Kelly and his senior staff. Additionally, the Iron Workers Local 704 operates and manages a robust apprenticeship program, where we provide apprentices with the skills, knowledge, and training necessary to be safe on the job site, competitive in the workplace, and satisfied in their careers. The Wilcox Boulevard Bridge replacement is exactly the kind of project our apprentices train for and we know they will be a real asset to the labor force that makes this infrastructure possible.

Local 704 was chartered in 1946 and we have a proud history of supplying contractors with highly skilled iron workers for all types of work in the industry. We are very proud of the fact that we have helped define the Chattanooga skyline, with key projects just like this one. When our organization was chartered, President Roosevelt's dream of the Tennessee Valley Authority was beginning to create a tremendous impact in people's lives. From dams, steam plants, and nuclear power plants—these projects have been the cornerstone of Local 704's members from our Local's inception. We are confident that projects like these ensure that this legacy continues under the Biden-Harris administration.

This project will require a robust range of cooperation and support between the City of Chattanooga, the Tennessee Department of Transportation, both railroad partners, and the labor who will make this project possible. By bringing this project to our community, the City of Chattanooga and USDOT can reinvigorate community connectivity while investing in local labor, creating opportunities for our apprentices, and strengthening critical infrastructure that connects our region.

We appreciate the City of Chattanooga and Mayor Kelly for engaging us in this process and look forward to it being favorably considered during your review.

Sincerely,

Sean-Paul Kimball
Business Manager
Iron Workers Local 704