



CITY OF BEAUFORT  
**Community and Economic Development Department**

WILLIAM PROKOP  
City Manager

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DAVID PRICHARD  
Community & Economic  
Director

July 12, 2021

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

**Re: Letter of Support for Beaufort County's RAISE Grant**

Dear Mr. Secretary,

The City of Beaufort fully supports the proposed infrastructure improvements to US 21 and SC 802 and respectfully requests that the Department of Transportation award Beaufort County the grant. US 21 and SC 802 are the primary corridors connecting the sea islands. The creation of multi-modal alternatives will enhance pedestrian and bicycle safety and improve the livability and quality of life for Lady's Island residents.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Prichard", is written over a horizontal line.

David Prichard  
Community & Economic Development Director



**Council**

Joe DeVito  
*Mayor*

Jerry Ashmore  
*Mayor Pro Tempore*

Mary Beth Heyward  
Darryl Owens  
Kevin Phillips

Van Willis  
*Town Manager*

T. Alan Beach  
*Chief of Police*

Jeffrey S. Coppinger  
*Operations*

Noah Krepps  
*Planning*

July 7, 2021

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

Re: RAISE Grant Application for the US 21/SC 802 Corridor Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Town of Port Royal, please accept this letter as an endorsement of Beaufort County's RAISE Grant Application for the US 21/SC 802 Corridor Project. While not geographically located within the Town of Port Royal, the improvements will have a positive impact on the Town due to the connectivity it provides for our region.

The Town, partnering with our neighboring municipalities and Beaufort County, has realized the necessity of working together to address traffic and connectivity issues. This project is an example of our cooperative efforts.

Sincerely,

Van Willis  
Town Manager



Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: Letter of Support for Beaufort County's RAISE Grant**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Please accept this letter of support for Beaufort County, South Carolina's, RAISE Grant for US 21/ SC 802 Corridor Improvements.

Sea Island Parkway (US 21 Business) is the "Main Street" of Lady's Island; yet in its current configuration, it serves primarily as thoroughfare for cars accessing the outlying sea islands. The proposed project will make it safer, more accessible, and more attractive for **all** users including pedestrians (including those with disabilities), bicyclists, shoppers, business owners, and investors. Undergrounding utilities, adding appropriate landscaping including shade trees, installing proper lighting, and using best management practices in stormwater control, will make the corridor "greener" and more resilient.

Sea Island Parkway is the gateway to Hunting Island State Park and St. Helena Island, the largest Gullah/Geechee community in Beaufort County. Sea Island Parkway provides access to the Penn Center National Historic Landmark District, and the Reconstruction Era National Historical Park unit at Penn Center. Instead of the concrete and asphalt auto-centric 3-5 lane thoroughfare that currently greets residents and visitors, the proposed streetscape redesign will provide a fitting entrance to these regional and national treasures. The proposed project will align the street design with the plans, policies, and development regulations already in place in the County and its partner, the City of Beaufort.

We urge you to fully fund Beaufort County's RAISE Grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robb Wells".

Robb Wells  
President/CEO  
Greater Beaufort-Port Royal CVB



# Northern Beaufort County Plan Implementation Committee

July 9, 2021

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: Letter of Support for Beaufort County's RAISE Grant**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Please accept this letter of support for Beaufort County, South Carolina's, RAISE Grant for US 21/SC 802 Corridor Improvements.

Sea Island Parkway (US 21 Business) is the "Main Street" of Lady's Island; yet in its current configuration, it serves primarily as thoroughfare for cars accessing the outlying sea islands. The proposed project will make it safer, more accessible, and more attractive for all users including pedestrians (including those with disabilities), bicyclists, shoppers, business owners, and investors. Undergrounding utilities, adding appropriate landscaping including shade trees, installing proper lighting, and using best management practices in stormwater control, will make the corridor pedestrian friendly, "greener", and a purposeful village environment that is more sustainable and resilient.

Sea Island Parkway is the gateway to the Sea Islands that are home to the landmarks of Hunting Island State Park and the largest Gullah/Geechee community in Beaufort County on St. Helena Island as well as the Penn Center National Historic Landmark District, and the Reconstruction Era National Historical Park unit at Penn Center. Instead of the concrete and asphalt auto-centric 3-5 lane thoroughfare that currently greets residents and visitors, the proposed streetscape redesign will provide a fitting entrance to these regional and national treasures.

The County has envisioned Sea Island Parkway as the core of a "Lady's Island Village Center" in plans dating back over 20 years. The disconnect between that community vision and the current street section has always been the barrier to achieving that goal. The proposed project will align

the street design with the plans, policies, and development regulations already in place in the County and its partner, the City of Beaufort.

We urge you to fully fund Beaufort County's RAISE Grant application.

Sincerely,



Michael Tomy, RA, CDT

Chairman, Beaufort North Regional Plan implementation Committee

Chairman, Lady's Island Village Center Task Force.



Sea Island Corridor Coalition  
PO Box 533  
St. Helena SC 29920  
843.838.1888  
[seaislandcoalition@gmail.com](mailto:seaislandcoalition@gmail.com)

July 8, 2021

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Letter of Support for Beaufort County's RAISE Grant

Dear Secretary Buttigieg

For the past five years, the Sea Island Coalition has been advocating for a commitment by Beaufort County and the City of Beaufort to develop and pursue a master plan for Ladys Island that improves connectivity and safety, discourages sprawl, and provides safe access to the sea islands east of historic Beaufort.

Progress has been slow, largely due to resource constraints. But the award of a RAISE grant for improvements along US 21 and SC 802 – the Island's main thoroughfares – would make all the difference in the world, providing a foundation for further City and County investment in the future of the Island.

Ladys Island is home to a population approximately the same as the City of Beaufort, but its thoughtful development has been neglected. Currently a through-point to Beaufort and the neighboring Town of Port Royal, we believe the Island must develop as a destination community unto itself, a place where residents can work, shop and play without merely "driving through" and creating traffic problems for everyone else. Smart development of transportation and other infrastructure on Ladys Island will work to reduce traffic and help guide future development in Beaufort and Port Royal, as well as on St. Helena Island to the east.

But that prospect needs a boost, and plans for the use of the RAISE Grant would do just that, with a centerpiece streetscape and safety improvements to current roadways that benefit everyone in the mini-metro area that is Beaufort/Ladys Island/Port Royal/St. Helena.

You once said "As a mayor, my instinct is to really think about how to get something done and not to make the promise unless you have some view of the pathway. You don't have to have it all figured out, but you have to have a pathway there." This RAISE Grant would help create part of our pathway.

We urge you to approve and fully-fund this application by Beaufort County, and help us develop and deliver a Ladys Island community that is attractive, safe, robust and welcoming, and contributes to the larger community surrounding it.

Sincerely

Charles Newton  
EA

Charles G. Newton, Jr.  
Chairman



7/9/21  
 Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
 United States Department of Transportation  
 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
 Washington, DC 20590

Secretary Buttigieg,

Please accept this letter of support from the South Carolina Coastal Conservation League for Beaufort County, South Carolina’s RAISE Grant application for improvements to the US 21/SC 802 Corridor Improvements.

Sea Island Parkway (US 21 Business) is thought of as the “Main Street” of Lady’s Island; but, the current road is not a true main street. Instead, it quickly transports vehicles to the outer sea islands, including Hunting Island, the State’s most heavily trafficked State Park, and St. Helena Island, which is the heart of Gullah/Geechee life in Beaufort County. Cyclists, pedestrians and wheelchair users are left behind and cannot safely navigate this stretch of road, or even negotiate the main intersection of Sea Island Parkway and Sam’s Point Road.

Improvements in this corridor have long been recommended, contemplated, and even beautifully illustrated. Below, you will see an excerpt from the City of Beaufort’s Civic Master plan, envisioning what the intersection might be.

■ Mixed-Use Corridors of Vibrant Activity

## 8.4 Sea Island Parkway and Lady’s Island Village Center

Sector: 5

Project Type: Private

Civic Investment Required: None

See Also: 2.7, 6.6

### Streetscape Improvements

As Carter Street extends south from downtown Beaufort across the Beaufort River, it becomes Sea Island Parkway, the primary thoroughfare to Lady’s Island, St. Helena Island and Hunting Island. Sea Island Parkway is primarily a four-lane rural thoroughfare with scattered sidewalks in the more developed areas near the Beaufort River.

Proposed streetscape improvements are limited to the Lady’s Island Village Center area located west of the Beaufort County Airport; the areas beyond this point quickly transition to a rural road with sparse development and little need for additional infrastructure. Along Sea Island Parkway, this plan recommends widening sidewalks and

installing planting strips to buffer the sidewalks from vehicular travel lanes. In some areas, on-street parking may be appropriate to serve new development located at the edge of the sidewalk. A series of roundabouts is also proposed to calm traffic through the Lady’s Island Village Center and create focal points for redevelopment.

### Redevelopment Strategies

The conceptual plan for Lady’s Island Village Center focuses on creating a more connected and coherent pattern of circulation and reinforcing the streetscape with walkable development that defines a consistent street edge. Beaufort High School continues to be a prominent, yet secluded civic presence in this area. The proposed plan for the Whitehall area and Hamilton Village seek to complement the mixed-use walkable character of downtown Beaufort by echoing this pattern directly across the Beaufort River. (See 6.6 for more detail about each of these areas.)



▲ CONCEPTUAL ILLUSTRATION OF LADY’S ISLAND VILLAGE CENTER

More recent planning initiatives like the Lady's Island Plan have identified specific goals for the roadway, including: "Plan for and implement a comprehensive streetscape design for Sea Island Parkway and Lady's Island Drive/Sam's Point Road."<sup>1</sup> In short, the County's proposal mirror community priorities that have been agreed upon for over 20 years.

This project also dovetails nicely with the completion of a significant redesign of Boundary Street in the City of Beaufort, a project that was completed utilizing, in part, TIGER grant funds. As Boundary Street continues through the city and over the Beaufort River, it eventually becomes Sea Island Parkway. This project should be seen as the logical extension of that corridor and provides greater connectivity for cyclist and pedestrians.

This project will make the roadway safer for all users, something that is desperately needed. Lower income residents on St. Helena frequently walk or bike into Lady's Island for essential services like groceries, hospitals, and pharmacies. The existing roadways are not safe for these users, even once they reach the heart of Lady's Island.

Undergrounding utilities is a game-changing investment that not only beautifies the area, but also makes us more resilient to hurricanes and other weather events. Landscaping has been shown to make drivers more cautious, providing visual cues to slow down and indicating they are driving through a true community.

Finally, there is broad agreement that Lady's Island is ripe for development and redevelopment. As we turn our eyes to the future, a true gateway to Lady's Island and the sea islands beyond is essential to attract quality investment, keep all users safe, and plan for tomorrow's growth. With a well-designed and fully funded street, this area could be a truly special part of Beaufort County that residents can be proud to call their own.

We urge you to fully fund Beaufort County's application.

Sincerely,

/s/ Rikki Parker

Rikki Parker

Senior Program Director, Legal and Program Support, [RikkiP@sccl.org](mailto:RikkiP@sccl.org), (217) 273-8823

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<sup>1</sup> *Lady's Island Plan*, p. 9, available at [https://ladysislandplan.files.wordpress.com/2019/04/ladys-island-area-plan\\_final-1.pdf](https://ladysislandplan.files.wordpress.com/2019/04/ladys-island-area-plan_final-1.pdf)

# Lady's Island Business Professionals Association

**Mark J. Weeks**

President

182 Sea Island Parkway  
Lady's Island, SC 29907  
843-522-0066  
Mjweeks84@gmail.com

**Secretary Pete Buttigieg**

**United States Department of Transportation**

1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

July 8, 2021

Dear Secretary Pete Buttigieg,

Please accept this letter of support for Beaufort County, South Carolina's, RAISE Grant for US 21/SC 802 Corridor Improvements.

The Lady's Island Business Professionals Association (LIBPA) is a state chartered, nonprofit community organization founded in 1981 to allow the residents and business owners of Lady's Island to have a voice in the direction of growth on their island and to protect its natural beauty. LIBPA has always been and continues to be fully involved with any activity that would benefit and protect Lady's Island residents and business owners and the surrounding communities. We are very active in the zoning, design and construction of the Lady's Island community and corridor. The proposed project will align the street design with the plans, policies, and development regulations already in place in the County and its partner, the City of Beaufort.

Sea Island Parkway (US 21 Business) is the "Main Street" of Lady's Island; yet in its current configuration, it serves primarily as thoroughfare for cars accessing the outlying sea islands. The proposed project will make it safer, more accessible, and more attractive for **all** users including pedestrians (including those with disabilities), bicyclists, shoppers, business owners, and investors. Undergrounding utilities, adding appropriate landscaping including shade trees, installing proper lighting, and using best management practices in stormwater control, will make the corridor "greener" and more resilient.

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We urge you to fully fund Beaufort County's RAISE Grant application.

Sincerely,



**Mark J. Weeks**



Margaret M. Allard  
18 Audubon Rd.  
Lady's Island, SC 29907

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: Letter of Support for Beaufort County's RAISE Grant**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As the former President of the Friends of Crystal Lake, a citizen group who worked with Beaufort County officials to transform a 26-acre park with a lake, wetlands, and uplands into a community passive park, I strongly support this request from Beaufort County, South Carolina for the RAISE Grant for US 21/SC 802 Corridor Improvements. Since the parks opening, January 23, 2020, it has been well received by the public. The community appreciates how natural areas and naturescapes can positively impact a community. This has been even more evident during the lock down from the Covid 19 pandemic in which the park provided a safe place for residents to get outside.

The proposed project will make it safer, more accessible, and more attractive for **all** users including pedestrians (those with disabilities), bicyclists, shoppers, business owners, and investors. Undergrounding utilities, adding appropriate landscaping including shade trees, installing proper lighting, and using best management practices in stormwater control, will make the corridor "greener" and more resilient.

The disconnect between that community vision and the current street section has always been the barrier to achieving that goal. In an area, which has seen significant population growth in recent years, the proposed project will align the street design with the plans, policies, and development regulations already in place as well as improve the quality of life for all the residents.

I urge you to fully fund Beaufort County's RAISE Grant application.

Sincerely,



Margaret M. Allard