

NANCY MACE  
1ST DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT  
AND REFORM

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515

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OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
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BEAUFORT OFFICE  
710 BOUNDARY ST.  
BEAUFORT, SC 29902  
(843) 521-2530

April 3, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

It is my understanding that you will soon be making decisions on grant awards, and that the County of Beaufort, located within my congressional district, has applied for funding under the RAISE grant for US 21/SC 802 Corridor improvements. Having reviewed their submission for this year, I believe it to be a worthy project, and I would ask that you give it full and fair consideration consistent with all appropriate guidelines and regulations.

Lady's Island is home to a population of approximately the same as the City of Beaufort, but its development has been slow, largely due to resource constraints. Approval of the RAISE grant will enhance connectivity as well as safety to Lady's and Saint Helena Island in addition to other outer sea islands.

These islands must grow as a key destination unto itself. Grant funds will help to develop a place where residents can work, shop and play instead of just merely a strip of road to drive through. Strategic construction of transportation and other infrastructure projects will also work to reduce traffic on Lady's Island. If approved, these grants will serve as a catalyst for future development on Lady's Island, benefiting not only current residents but also attracting visitors to Saint Helena Island and other outer sea islands.

It is my hope that the request for RAISE grants from Beaufort County receives serious and timely consideration due to the positive impact it will have on supporting critical infrastructure projects in our community.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter. I also respectfully request that you keep me informed of the status of this grant application. If I can provide additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff at (202) 225-3176.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Mace". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Congresswoman Nancy Mace



## Beaufort County Legislative Delegation

100 RIBAUT RD. ROOM 245 | P.O. BOX 1228 | BEAUFORT, SC 29901 | PHONE: 843.255.2260 | FAX: 843.255.9425

April 3, 2022

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

RE: Letter of Support for Beaufort County RAISE Grant for US 21/SC 802 Corridor Improvements

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Beaufort County Legislative Delegation, please accept this letter of support for the RAISE Grant that is vitally needed as the county develops its transportation master plan for improvements along US 21/SC 802 corridor.

Sea Island Parkway (US 21 Business) is the "Main Street" of Lady's Island. In its current configuration, it serves primarily as a thoroughfare for vehicles 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 potential future investors.

This proposed project will provide for underground utilities, improved much needed landscaping, installation of lighting for safety, management of stormwater control and provide for a more pedestrian friendly corridor 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 the Penn Center.

Beaufort County has envisioned Sea Island Parkway as the core of a Lady's Island Village Center with plans dating back more than 20 years. We urge you to approve and fully fund this RAISE Grant for Beaufort County and help us develop a Lady's Island community that is attractive, safe, robust and welcoming and improve the livability and quality of life for Lady's Island residents.

Sincerely,

  
Rep. Weston J. Newton  
Chairman

WILLIAM PROKOP  
CITY MANAGER



STEPHEN D. MURRAY III  
MAYOR

**CITY OF BEAUFORT**  
1911 Boundary Street  
BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA 29902  
843-525-7070

April 5, 2022

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

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

Dear Mr. Secretary,

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

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. Prokop", is written over the typed name and title.

William Prokop  
City Manager



**Council**

Joe DeVito  
*Mayor*

Darryl Owens  
*Mayor Pro Tempore*

Jerry Ashmore  
Mary Beth Heyward  
Kevin Phillips

Van Willis  
*Town Manager*

T. Alan Beach  
*Chief of Police*

Jeffrey S. Coppinger  
*Operations*

Noah Krepps  
*Planning*

April 12, 2022

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 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N.P. Krepps", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Noah Krepps  
Planning Director



April 7, 2022

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

Secretary Buttigieg,

Please accept this letter of support from the Coastal Conservation League for Beaufort County, South Carolina's RAISE Grant application for corridor improvements to US 21 Bus/US 21 (Sea Island Parkway) from Woods Memorial Bridge to near Chowan Creek and on US 21 (Lady's Island Drive)/SC 802 (Sam's Point Road) from Rue Du Bois to Miller Drive West.

Sea Island Parkway from the Woods Bridge through the main intersection with Sam's Point Road is thought of as the "Main Street" of Lady's Island; however, the current road is not a true main street. Instead, it simply transports vehicles to and from 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. Not only does this roadway not look, feel, and function like a traditional street, but also cyclists, pedestrians, and handicapped 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.

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 Currier 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 area beyond this point quickly transitions to a rural road with sparse development and little need for additional infrastructure. Along Sea Island Parkway, the plan recommends widening sidewalks and resulting planting strips to buffer the sidewalks from vehicle 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 unlinked civic presence in this area. The proposed plan for the Whitall area and Hamilton Village seek to complement the mixed-use, walkable character of downtown Beaufort by extending 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

© City of Beaufort, SC Civic Master Plan



More recent planning initiatives like the 2018 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 mirrors much-needed 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, and look, feel, and function like a true traditional, and complete-street. 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. Vegetative landscaping has been shown to make drivers more cautious, providing visual cues to slow down and indicating they are driving through a true community, with the added value of increased resiliency through natural drainage functionality.

Lady's Island is undeniably ripe for development and redevelopment, with much already underway. 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.

Respectfully,

**Jessie White**  
*South Coast Office Director*  
843.522.1800 | [jessiew@scccl.org](mailto:jessiew@scccl.org)

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<sup>1</sup> *Lady's Island Plan 2018*, p. 9, available at [https://ladysislandplan.files.wordpress.com/2019/04/ladysisland-area-plan\\_final-1.pdf](https://ladysislandplan.files.wordpress.com/2019/04/ladysisland-area-plan_final-1.pdf).



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

April 3, 2022

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

*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."*

Here on Ladys Island, we have the pathway. But we need a little help from our friends.

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, promotes walkability, discourages sprawl, and provides safe access to the seaislands east of historic Beaufort.

Nine specific projects have been identified, and in a 2018 referendum, Beaufort County taxpayers approved \$30 million toward these projects, approximately half of the funds required. The award of a RAISE grant to help fund these 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.

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
Beaufort County RAISE Grant  
April 3, 2022 (2)

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, contributing to the larger community surrounding it.

Sincerely

Charles G. Newton, Jr.  
Chair



# Northern Beaufort County Plan Implementation Committee

April 9, 2022

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Tomy", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael Tomy, RA, CDT  
Chairman, Beaufort North Regional Plan implementation Committee  
Chairman, Lady's Island Village Center Task Force.



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

**Lady's Island Business & Professional Association  
182-D Sea Island Parkway  
Lady's Island, S.C. 29907**

April 5, 2022

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 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,  
Scott Shipsey  
*Scott Shipsey*  
President, LIBPA



# BEAUFORT, SC

REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

April 14, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary 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:

I am writing to support Beaufort County, South Carolina's, RAISE Grant for US 21/SC 802 Corridor Improvements.

The Sea Island Parkway (US 21 Business) is the principal business corridor for Lady's Island, a major center of economic activity in the Beaufort Region, and an important connector for our region's outlying sea islands. The proposed project will make the Sea Island Parkway safer, more accessible, more resilient and more attractive for all users by undergrounding utilities, adding appropriate landscaping and lighting, and enhancing stormwater management.

The Sea Island Parkway is envisioned as the core of a "Lady's Island Village Center" in plans dating back over 20 years. The proposed project will advance those plans and will likely spur additional private sector investment and job creation.

Local voters have already approved a ballot measure raising their own taxes to contribute matching funds for this project and similar transportation needs. Federal support is a vital component of the funding mix necessary to make this important investment in our community. We encourage you to fully fund Beaufort County's RAISE Grant application for US 21/SC 802 Corridor Improvements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ian D. Scott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ian" and last name "Scott" clearly legible.

Ian D. Scott  
President & CEO