

April 12, 2022

WILMAPCO (Chair)

Rt. 9/13 All Civics

Collins Park Civic
Association

Dunleith Civic
Association

Hamilton / Eden Park
Civic Association

New Castle Prevention
Coalition

Overview Gardens /
Garfield Park Civic
Association

ProRank Business
Solutions, LLC

Rep. Frank Cooke

Rosegate Civic
Association

Rose Hill Gardens Civic
Association

University of Delaware
Partnership for Healthy
Communities

YWCA Delaware

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

RE: Support for Delaware's SR 9 RAISE Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Route 9 Monitoring Committee (R9MC) is pleased to strongly support the Delaware Department of Transportation's (DelDOT) request for Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant funding for the Route 9 Corridor.

The *Route 9 Transportation and Land Use Master Plan* was a collaborative effort between government, civic leaders, and other key stakeholders. The Plan identifies the best reinvestment and redevelopment strategies for communities along SR 9 south of Wilmington, which are disadvantaged and overburdened with Environmental Justice concerns.

This SR 9 project proposal will advance the major transportation recommendations found within the Master Plan. The project features significant traffic safety improvements for all modes of travel, the enhancement of connectivity in a largely disconnected suburb, and supports the equitable economic revitalization efforts envisioned by the Master Plan. What is more, the project is an ideal opportunity to ultimately establish Delaware's first local hire provisions on a transportation contract and provide area residents the opportunity to uplift their community, build their skills, and earn a living wage. This transformative project, which has enjoyed strong and sustained local community support, is long overdue. This sentiment is best captured by our slogan: "Route 9 – It's About Time."

The mission of the Route 9 Master Plan Monitoring Committee is to help guide and fulfill the recommendations of the Master Plan, which established a shared vision for the transportation and land use redevelopment of the Route 9 corridor. This work will be accomplished through a collaborative dialogue between its membership, which includes implementing agencies, local civic and community leaders, other key stakeholders, and the communities they represent.

We look forward to continuing to support DelDOT, the community, and other stakeholders as this effort proceeds. For more information on the Route 9 Master Plan, please visit: www.wilmapco.org/route9. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. I can be reached at: 302-737-6205 x113 or at bswiatek@wilmapco.org.



Bill Swiatek, AICP
Chair, Route 9 Master Plan Monitoring Committee