



October 5, 2022

The Honorable Peter Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments
CONSERVE8: Connecting Neighborhoods to Stimulate Economic Revitalization,
Vitality, and Equity across Connecticut Route 8

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments (MetroCOG), the City of Bridgeport and the Towns of Stratford and Trumbull I write in full support of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments' (NVCOG) request for federal funding from the USDOT's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program. The proposed Connecting Neighborhoods to Stimulate Economic Revitalization, Vitality, and Equity across Route 8 (*CONSERVE8*) study is the first step in making significant impacts on the residents throughout the Route 8 corridor, especially those who suffer the most from the existing transportation system.

The Route 8 Expressway has improved vehicular travel through the Greater Bridgeport Region but has done so at the expense of the neighborhoods that it divides. In Bridgeport, Route 8, separates Downtown Bridgeport from several residential areas, including the Hollow, the city's most densely populated neighborhood which has a high immigrant population. In Stratford and Trumbull, the expansive infrastructure separates residential neighborhood and commercial corridors. We look forward to partnering with the NVCOG on this project, providing input and support as mitigation strategies are identified to ensure they fit the needs of residents of Bridgeport, Stratford, Trumbull, and the rest of the Greater Bridgeport region.

The NVCOG study aims to identify cost-effective, feasible actions and strategies to mitigate the impacts of the highway on residents in the region, and for that reason we enthusiastically support this application. Projects such as *CONSERVE8* are a critical step toward improving the quality of life within the for all residents in the Route 8 corridor, all while supporting the goals of improving mobility for all, transportation equity, and increasing the vitality of our cities and towns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Fulda', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Matthew Fulda
Executive Director - MetroCOG