

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 25, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

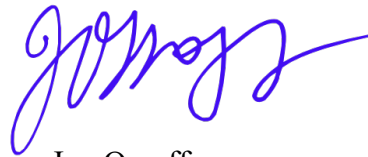
I write in support of the application submitted by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rural Surface Transportation (Rural) grant program.

GDOT plans to use this funding to remove the at-grade rail crossing on State Route 21/Millen Bypass in the City of Millen, Georgia. The SR 21/Millen Bypass crossing is located approximately 800 feet east of the SR 21 and US 25 intersection and 1.5 miles north of the at-grade railroad crossings along SR 17/67/Winthrope Avenue. The SR 21/Millen Bypass crossing rail line serves the Norfolk Southern Millen Rail Yard and connects to the Mason Mega Rail Terminal at the Port of Savannah.

The increase in port traffic has expanded the need for rail transport, and has resulted in a greater number of roadway blockages occurring from switching and through trains. These blockages negatively impact the efficiency of the transportation network for emergency vehicles, personal vehicles, and freight movements, as well as disrupt transportation to and from healthcare and medical centers, government buildings, schools, and residential areas.

I urge the Department of Transportation to give the Georgia Department of Transportation's Rural grant program application its fullest consideration. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator