



STATE OF ARKANSAS

# House of Representatives

## REPRESENTATIVE

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## DISTRICT 35

### Counties:

Part Crittenden  
Part Cross

### COMMITTEES:

Judiciary  
Vice Chairperson,  
City, County and Local Affairs  
Rules

Legislative Joint Auditing Committee

2nd Alternate,  
Arkansas Legislative Council

August 14, 2023

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

RE: FY2023 USDOT PROTECT grant application - City of West  
Memphis, Arkansas

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As the state representative for Arkansas House District 35, which covers West Memphis, I am pleased to write in support of the City of West Memphis, Arkansas, and their FY 2023 U.S. Department of Transportation's Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) grant application to fund the Mississippi River Bridges: Resilience of Multimodal Infrastructure through Floodplain Restoration and Protection project.

This wetland restoration and reforestation effort will help to remedy the continued degradation of the floodplain due to the extreme Mississippi River flooding. In addition, the new hardwood forests will strengthen the floodplain and will reduce wave action and scour on the earthen embankments that support two major interstate crossings (I-40 and I-55), the Big River Crossing pedestrian bridge, the Levee Trail, Meadow Trail, and two class-V railroad crossings. These are vital transportation systems to the local, regional, and national economy that converge in the Mississippi River floodplain in the state of Arkansas.

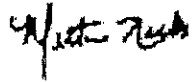
The Mississippi River Bridges project will help to provide increased resiliency to vital local, regional, and national transportation assets. This is an opportunity to create a special place for wetlands restoration while establishing a protected land that offers a complete network of trails and

Letter to Secretary  
Buttigieg  
8/14/2023  
Page 2

amenities that highlight restored natural features for Memphis, West Memphis, and surrounding communities.

Should the U.S. DOT select this application for grant funding, the City of West Memphis is committed to taking the necessary steps, as required, by working with state and local partners. This effort is proposed to inherently benefit the community for years to come, and to position them for enhanced opportunities and quality of life. Thank you for considering their application for PROTECT Grant Program funding.

Sincerely,



Milton Nicks, Jr.  
State Representative  
District 35

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