

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 5, 2022

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

Re: University Transportation Center Grant Program, Region 1

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We are writing to express our strong support for the University of Massachusetts Amherst-led proposal for the next New England University Transportation Center (NEUTC), representing Region 1.

As you are aware, the University Transportation Center (UTC) program is designed to advance state-of-the-art transportation research and technology through diverse regional consortia of colleges and universities solving the transportation issues of today and tomorrow. UTCs train the next generation of transportation professionals, while advancing knowledge, conducting technology transfer, and sharing cutting-edge ideas and approaches. The proposed NEUTC seeks to address safety challenges and equity issues that impact both New England and the nation through a consortium that includes researchers from the University of Maine, University of New Hampshire, University of Connecticut, Norwich University (VT), the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Bunker Hill Community College (MA), and Holyoke Community College (MA). This wide-ranging coalition, including flagship public universities, high-level private universities, and both minority- and Hispanic-serving institutions, will bring a wealth of experience and expertise to these topics.

The last several years have been among the deadliest on the roads in recent American history, with 42,915 fatalities on American roads and highways in 2021. This figure represented the most fatalities per year in a decade, with fatalities disproportionately occurring among Black and Hispanic American communities. For this reason, the NEUTC proposes to advance transportation safety through the lens of equitable safety, with an immediate focus on translating research into implementation to prevent fatalities in the near-term. With this focus, the NEUTC will not only address critical safety challenges, but also advance several of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Strategic Plan Key Performance Indicators through the application of transformative technologies and equitable practices.

The NEUTC proposes to focus on four thematic priority areas during the five-year performance period of the regional UTC grant: 1) embedding equity and community engagement within transportation safety; 2) developing smart infrastructure and connected systems; 3) improving safety for all modes and populations; and 4) promoting automated vehicle safety. While these issues respond to specific needs in the New England region, the lessons, technologies, and strategies developed by the NEUTC will have currency throughout the nation and contribute to the Department's focus on improving safety for all road users.

We enthusiastically support the objectives of the University of Massachusetts Amherst's NEUTC proposal, and we urge the Department to give full and fair consideration to its grant application. Thank you for this opportunity to express our support.

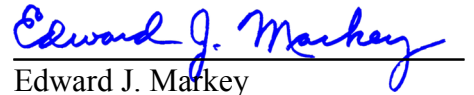
Sincerely,



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



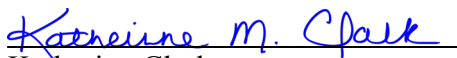
Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress



Jake Auchincloss  
Member of Congress



Katherine Clark  
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress