



CITY OF SOUTH BEND
PETE BUTTIGIEG, MAYOR
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Dear Bloomberg Mayors Challenge evaluation committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for the City of South Bend's application to the Champion phase of the Bloomberg Mayors Challenge. Our team hopes to receive funding to continue exploring solutions to transportation barriers facing low-income part-time and shift workers in South Bend.

I have been energized by all of the great work our team has done in refining a transportation solution that meets the needs of a diverse resident base. The City is committed to providing services that empower everyone to thrive, and our Mayors Challenge team has demonstrated that access to reliable transportation provides innumerable benefits. After only five months of piloting, their preliminary results indicate this transportation solution has made commutes shorter, easier, and more reliable, even enabling workers to take extra shifts. For employers, this suggests second-order effects of reduced turnover, higher productivity, and employee satisfaction.

We have consistently heard that transportation is a primary barrier to stable, fulfilling employment and our partner employers have supported the program without exception. Our team has collaborated with top employers in the region, including the University of Notre Dame, Beacon Health System, and the City's Venues, Parks, and Arts Department to co-create solutions that best fit employee needs.

Mobility is a key priority in the City's 2019 budget and South Bend is addressing this need head-on. Over the past year, we have successfully established South Bend as a beta city for dockless bike share programs in the U.S. and reexamined bus routes for opportunities to expand service. The Mayors Challenge project is an important addition to improve the current suite of transportation options meeting South Bend residents' needs. I am fully committed to supporting the South Bend team's work, including facilitating relationships with transportation providers and connecting them with necessary City resources.

I am confident that if South Bend is selected as a Mayors Challenge winner, our team will craft a nuanced solution that helps employees get to work easily and consistently. We will continue to build on public-private partnerships to ensure that the solution meets different needs in a nimble, cost-effective way that ensures the program's ongoing success.

Sincerely,



Pete Buttigieg
Mayor