



## Buttigieg Surveys U.S. 127, I-496 Interchange

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(EAST LANSING) - U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete **BUTTIGIEG** said, while surveying work on the \$200 million I-496/U.S. 127 interchange construction project today, that the return on investment for good infrastructure is “extraordinary.”

So, while this massive highway project in the Lansing area is being made possible due in part to \$36 million from the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Buttigieg said investment in good roads will need to continue.

“To me, the question isn’t, ‘Can we afford to fix the damn roads and have good bridges,’ Buttigieg said. “The question is, ‘Can we afford not to?’”

President Joe **BIDEN**’s administration pushed through a \$1.2 trillion infrastructure improvement plan, something the White House called “generational” at the time.

Standing on a high dirt embankment on what will be a U.S. 127 exit ramp to Trowbridge Road by December, Buttigieg was asked if the current level of federal transportation funding was sustainable. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is expected to run out of money in two years.

“The reality is we know that there’s going to continue to be more need for investment for good infrastructure,” he said.

Buttigieg was in the Lansing area with U.S. Rep. [Elissa SLOTKIN \(D-Holly\)](#) and Lansing Mayor Andy **SCHOR** to highlight how the Biden administration has been “Investing In America,” as the huge banner behind today’s podium read.

“The bottom line is we are fixing the damn roads, as Governor Whitmer would say, and everything over and under and around those roads, too,” the Secretary said.

In her remarks, Slotkin stressed that \$7 billion in federal money has rolled into Michigan roads from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law with another \$3 billion to come.

Washington D.C. pundits proclaimed the law that is making these projects happen as dead several times before it was signed in November 2021, she said. However, the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus crafted the framework for what later became the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

"Real stuff happens when people work together in Washington," Slotkin said. "When we work together and stop all the angry rhetoric and all the pot shots and all the nastiness, we actually get stuff done."