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February 8, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: FY2023 RAISE Grant Application – Birmingham Urban Trail + Multimodal Corridor

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

AARP Alabama strongly supports the RAISE grant application “Birmingham Urban Trail + Multimodal Corridor Birmingham Civil Rights Crossroads: Reconnecting Historic Neighborhoods Through Active Mobility” which is the result of a collaboration between the City of Birmingham, the Birmingham Jefferson County Transit Authority, Freshwater Land Trust, Urban Impact, REV Birmingham, and other local stakeholders.

This corridor will celebrate, honor, and revitalize the Smithfield neighborhood, the west side of Birmingham, and the Civil Rights District. It will be the spine of a growing multimodal transportation network, providing safe and equitable options via an urban trail and Complete Streets and creating a more walkable, bikeable, safe, connected, and livable community. This project is highlighted in many existing plans, including the Northwest Quadrant Plan and City Center Master Plan, and as a key corridor in the Red Rock Trail Plan.

AARP Alabama is a nonprofit, nonpartisan social change organization with a membership of more than 400,000 individuals that works to strengthen communities, and fights for the issues such as healthcare, financial security, and age-friendly, livable communities. Central to the creation of livable communities is the possibility for everyone, regardless of age or ability, to travel safely. The “Birmingham Urban Trail and Multimodal Corridor Birmingham Civil Rights Crossroads” collaborative project will work to improve connectivity in the historic Smithfield.

By supporting these efforts, USDOT can showcase a project that aligns closely with its objectives under the Administration's objectives, including enhancing access to opportunities for historically marginalized

Real Possibilities

communities, creating an equitable transportation system that works for everyone, and transitioning to a more environmentally conscience network that prioritizes non-motorized users. This project will deliver healthy, innovative, resilient, and integrated transportation options for residents and visitors of the City of Birmingham.

Thank you for considering this application for RAISE Program funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C Williams", written in black ink on a light background.

Candi Williams
State Director, AARP Alabama