

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:

The Birmingham Bicycle Club 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.

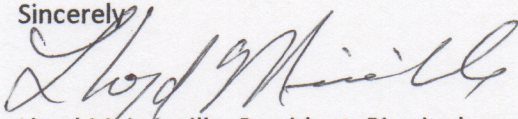
This corridor will celebrate, honor, and revitalize the Smithfield neighborhood, the west side of Birmingham, and the Civil Rights District. It will be the spine of a growing multimodal transportation network, providing safe and equitable options via an urban trail and Complete Streets and creating a 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.

The Birmingham Bicycle Club began operation over fifty years ago as a result of a few cyclists coming together and forming a community that would develop into the Birmingham Bicycle Club. Over these past 50 years the club has had its share of ups and downs, with the pandemic being one of the worst. The membership dropped to under 50 riders from a high of approximately 200. As we work to rebuild and reinvent ourselves, we have been working hard to create an atmosphere of inclusion and diversity. As of January 2023, we have grown to an all-time club high of 294 members. Many of our new members are urban riders, riding in and around the city streets of Birmingham. It's projects like these that show our cycling community that we, as community leaders, care about their safety and understand how important it is to give cyclists a way to enjoy their commutes / evening and weekend rides with their families and connecting neighborhoods to the city.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Lloyd Maisonneville", written in a cursive style.

Lloyd Maisonneville, President, Birmingham Bicycle Club