



BIRMINGHAM PARK AND RECREATION

Director

Shonae' Eddins- Bennett

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February 7, 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:

The Birmingham Park Board 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 Park Board has venues and parks throughout the Birmingham Area. The reconnecting of Smithfield Neighborhood where McClendon Park sits and the Birmingham Civil Rights District where Kelly Ingram Park is are two of our most visited parks. Birmingham has numerous trails and has worked with the organizations listed above with collaboration in keeping our environment safe, providing green spaces and more.

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,


Ronald Mitchell, President

Birmingham Park Board


Shonae' Eddins-Bennett, Director
Birmingham Park and Recreation

Legion Field Stadium

400 Graymont Avenue West, Birmingham, Alabama 35204 @ (205) 254-2391 @ (205) 254-2515 Fax