

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 and Multimodal Corridor

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Civil Rights Activist Committee/Foot Soldiers strongly supports the RAISE grant application “Birmingham Urban Trail and Multimodal Corridor” which is the result of a collaboration between the City of Birmingham, Birmingham Jefferson County Transit Authority, Freshwater Land Trust, Urban Impact, REV Birmingham, and other local stakeholders.

This project will be the spine of a growing multimodal transportation network, providing safe and equitable options via an urban trail and Complete Streets to connect Smithfield to Downtown Birmingham and to enhance 16th Street in the heart of the Civil Rights District. This project will improve transit access, safety, and mobility while creating economic opportunity in communities that were negatively impacted by interstate and multi-lane roadway development.

The Civil Rights Activist Committee/Foot Soldiers office is located on 4th Avenue North in the historic district. The purpose of the Civil Rights Activist Committee is to document countless stories of Foot Soldiers through the collection of their names and addresses in order to devise an active database and a written record of their stories. The trail is proposed to enhance pedestrian mobility and produce a safer experience along the Historic 4th Avenue District. The documented stories are commemorated in spaces throughout the Historic 4th Avenue Business and Civil Rights Districts. Hundreds of tourists explore the district for information pertaining to this commemorated era. Therefore, a pedestrian safe community is paramount in sharing those stories and highlighting the spaces that hosted these venerated events.

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, reviving economic opportunity, and transitioning to a more environmentally conscience network that prioritizes non-motorized users. This project will deliver healthy, climate-friendly, resilient, and integrated transportation options for residents and visitors of Birmingham. It will serve the City of Birmingham and its residents well for years to come.

Thank you for considering our application for RAISE Program funding.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paulette Roby". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paulette" being more prominent than the last name "Roby".

Ms. Paulette Roby, Civil Rights Activist Committee Chair.