



February 10, 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:

On behalf of the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham, I offer our strong support for the RAISE grant application “Birmingham Urban Trail + Multimodal Corridor Birmingham Civil Rights Crossroads: Reconnecting Historic Neighborhoods Through Active Mobility”. This application 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 Downtown Quadrant Plan and City Center Master Plan, and as a key corridor in the Red Rock Trail Plan.

The Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham has long been a partner and supporter of trails as a means of strengthening connections between communities, providing opportunities for mobility, and highlighting the history, culture, and beauty of a place. One of Birmingham’s strengths is our ability to come together to get things done for the better of our whole community. We have worked with all the partners in this project in the past, including on efforts to build out trails, improve multimodal transportation systems, and improve community infrastructure. We have full confidence in their ability to implement this project effectively and with consideration of and input from the residents it will serve.

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 conscious 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,

Christopher Nanni  
President & CEO

