



BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

SERVING CITIZENS THROUGH PUBLIC POLICY

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:

I, Dr. Darrell O'Quinn, District Five Councilor of the Birmingham City Council, 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.

As the Councilor for Birmingham City Council District Five, Chair of the Birmingham City Council's Transportation Committee, newly appointed member of the National League of Cities (NLC) Board of Directors, and NLC Transportation and Infrastructure Services Committee, this project will be transformational in a highly visible area of the City of Birmingham. This connectivity will allow residents and visitors to travel safely and efficiently throughout this nationally recognize historical district.

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,

Dr. Darrell O'Quinn, Councilor
Birmingham City Council, District Five
Chair, Birmingham City Council Transportation Committee

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