

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 Fountain Heights Neighborhood Association 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 Historic 4th Avenue Business district is located within the Fountain Heights Neighborhood Association footprint. The purpose of the Fountain Heights Neighborhood Association serves as a connection for member of its Neighborhood to gain access to information about activities and events in the neighborhood and throughout the city, become part of a supportive community that welcomes city involvement, and promote opportunities for members to get to know their neighbors. The trail is proposed as a connection that will enhance the pedestrian experience along the trail which is designed to produce a healthier and safer journey into and through the Civil Rights District. Hundreds of tourists explore the district. Therefore, a pedestrian safe community is supported and promoted.

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



Ms. Bonderia Lyons, President of the Fountain Heights Neighborhood Association.