



CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

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 am writing to express the City of Birmingham's strong support for the RAISE grant application "Birmingham Urban Trail + Multimodal Corridor Birmingham Civil Rights Crossroads: Reconnecting Historic Neighborhoods Through Active Mobility." This project is the result of close 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.

Importantly, this project builds on previous federal investments in the Civil Rights National Monument, such as the restoration of the A.G. Gaston Motel and early funds to help restore 16th Street Baptist Church. Concurrent to this application, we are actively pursuing a Choice Neighborhood Implementation Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Together with this RAISE project, we aim to catalyze transformational change in neighborhoods long neglected and bisected by highway infrastructure.

The City of Birmingham is prepared to support this project with an investment of \$4,000,000. City Council voted in affirmation of that investment on February 21, 2023.

By supporting these efforts, USDOT can showcase a project that aligns closely with USDOT and Biden Administration 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



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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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. L. Woodfin".

Randall L. Woodfin
Mayor

Recommended By: The Mayor
Budget and Finance Committee
Finance Department-Grants Division

Submitted By: The City Attorney

RESOLUTION NO. 275-23

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Birmingham, Alabama that the Mayor be and hereby is authorized on behalf of the City of Birmingham, to execute any and all documents required for the City to complete and submit a grant application for U.S. Department of Transportation National Infrastructure Investments (i.e., the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program) under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (“Bipartisan Infrastructure Law”), Amendment No. 2 for up to \$30,000,000.00 in funding to support an urban trail, Complete Street, and improved transit corridor with commitment of \$4,000,000 in matching funds from the City.

Adopted by the Council February 21, 2023 and Approved by the Mayor February 22, 2023



A CERTIFIED COPY
Lee Frazier, City Clerk
Birmingham, AL
Lee Frazier



February 23, 2023

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The Honorable Pete Buttigieg

Secretary

U.S. Department of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SW

Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: FY2023 RAISE Grant Application for Birmingham, Alabama, Urban Trail + Multimodal Corridor –
LETTER OF SUPPORT AND LOCAL MATCH COMMITMENT

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Freshwater Land Trust (FLT) is a Birmingham, Alabama-based nonprofit that conserves and cares for environmentally significant land throughout Central Alabama and connects the Red Rock Trail System throughout Jefferson County - Alabama's most populous county of which Birmingham is the seat. As part of that mission, FLT works closely with Birmingham's local government officials to create alternative transportation opportunities to better connect our diverse communities. Accordingly, FLT fully supports the city's RAISE grant application entitled "Birmingham Urban Trail + Multimodal Corridor Birmingham Civil Rights Crossroads: Reconnecting Historic Neighborhoods Through Active Mobility" and is financially committed to funding \$2 million in local match towards the overall project budget, specifically trail construction, if the RAISE grant is awarded.

This project will celebrate, honor, and revitalize the Smithfield neighborhood, the west side of Birmingham, and the Civil Rights District. The corridor will be the spine of a growing multimodal transportation network, providing safe and equitable options via an urban trail and Complete Streets, thus creating a more walkable, bikeable, safe, connected, and livable area. This project is highlighted in many existing plans, including the Northwest Quadrant Plan, the City Center Master Plan, and as a key corridor in the Red Rock Action Plan, which is discussed further below.

FLT is the driver of the Red Rock Trail System (RRTS), a network of planned and existing trails and alternative transportation routes connecting Jefferson County residents to the places they live, work, and play with a long-term goal of providing a trail or greenspace within one mile of every resident's home. Since FLT's 1996 inception, it has helped develop over 127 miles of off-road trails and bike lanes throughout the county, with over 43 miles of trails located within the Birmingham city limits.





In 2022, FLT worked with the national active transportation organization, Alta Planning and Design of Portland, Oregon, to develop the Red Rock Action Plan (RRAP), an updated RRTS plan specifically focused on creating regional connectivity. Through this work, seven priority corridors were identified as critical trail projects to provide links to greenspaces, transit, healthy food options, and employment opportunities across the greater Birmingham metropolitan area. Of the seven corridors proposed, FLT and our partners determined that Corridor A from the RRAP should be our region's top priority trail project due to the important connections it provides between west Birmingham and downtown's amenities. As such, FLT is extremely pleased that Corridor A has been incorporated into the project scope of Birmingham's RAISE grant application.

As further evidence of the importance of this project, it is worth noting that numerous residents living near this corridor do not own or have access to a personal vehicle. The street grid was built to cater to cars above every other form of transportation, which has resulted in unsafe streets for residents that are dependent on alternative modes of transportation to access community amenities and employment opportunities. Additionally, west Birmingham was historically cutoff from downtown Birmingham by the interstate system and numerous railway lines, creating physical barriers preventing residents from safely traveling the short distance between west Birmingham to downtown. Through the Birmingham Urban Trail + Multimodal Corridor, the city and its partners will finally be able to reconnect these communities and provide much-needed safe and reliable alternative transportation routes to residents of and visitors to Birmingham.

By supporting these efforts, the U.S. Department of Transportation can showcase a project that aligns closely with its objectives under President Biden's administration, 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 nonmotorized users. This project will deliver healthy, innovative, resilient, and integrated transportation options for the City of Birmingham, so FLT strongly encourages the USDOT to support and fund this important project.

Thank you for considering Birmingham's application for RAISE program funding. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rusha Smith".

Rusha Smith
Executive Director

cc: Mayor Randall Woodfin
Mr. James Fowler





CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Randall L. Woodfin
Mayor

James G. Fowler PE.
Director

February 27, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: City of Birmingham Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program Project (CMAQ 3717)

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The City of Birmingham, in partnership with the Metropolitan Planning Organization of the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham (RPCGB), is pleased to be able to coordinate this existing CMAQ project in conjunction with the City's 2023 RAISE grant application, The Birmingham Civil Rights Crossroads: Reconnecting Historic Neighborhoods Through Active Mobility.

It is our understanding that once the scope of work is finalized, new agreements will be produced. The City will approve and execute, returning original documents to RPCGB along with a certified resolution. Work will commence immediately, and the timing of this project will line up with the RAISE project.

Details related to the CMAQ 3717 Project are listed below:

CPMS Ref# 100067026	\$431,101.00
CPMS Ref# 100067027	\$159,228.02
CPMS Ref# 100067028	\$530,760.08
Total	\$1,121,089.10

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James Fowler".

James Fowler
Director
Department of Transportation, City of Birmingham

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott Tillman".

Scott Tillman
Director of Planning and Operations
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham