



President and CEO
Dontrelle Young Foster

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT

February 17, 2023

Board of Commissioners
D. G. Pantazis, Jr., Chairman
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Abra A. Barnes, Commissioner
Willie J. Lewis, Commissioner

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:

The Housing Authority of the Birmingham District 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 Downtown Quadrant Plan and City Center Master Plan, and as a key corridor in the Red Rock Trail Plan.

The Housing Authority of the Birmingham District’s (HABD) most historic housing community, Smithfield Court, is included in the community this corridor would impact. As one of Birmingham’s oldest communities, home to a diverse group of seniors and families, we believe the RAISE grant would significantly improve equitable connectivity for Smithfield residents to other spaces on the west side of Birmingham. Beyond providing the highest standard of affordable housing, the City of Birmingham and HABD share a similar goal: improving the quality of life for the residents we serve. As we prepare to impact many families by repositioning our public housing stock, we believe The Urban Trail + Multimodal Corridor would only support our efforts.

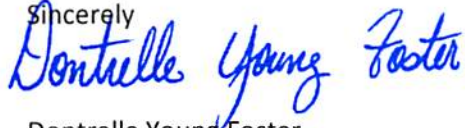
By supporting these efforts, USDOT can showcase a project that aligns closely with its objectives under the Biden Administration's objectives, including enhancing access to opportunities for historically marginalized communities and creating an equitable transportation system that works for everyone.

Letter of Support
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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 blue ink that reads "Dontrelle Young Foster". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dontrelle Young Foster
President and CEO
Housing Authority of the Birmingham District