



February 16, 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:

Live HealthSmart Alabama 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.

Live HealthSmart Alabama (LHSA) is the inaugural project of the University of Alabama at Birmingham Grand Challenge, an effort to combine innovative approaches to address real-world problems affecting Alabama’s communities. LHSA is a transformational movement to make good health simple for all Alabamians. We strive to decrease the incidence of chronic disease and provide greater health equity across the state, and we do so through a focus on providing access to good nutrition, encouraging greater percent of our population who is physically active, and making free age-appropriate health screens available. Our programs and services are aligned with Birmingham Urban Trail + Multimodal Corridor, as we can bring those programs and services to these communities.

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.

Best Regards,

Teresa Shufflebarger  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Live HealthSmart Alabama