



Creating Jobs. Keeping Character.

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:

Main Street Alabama 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.

Main Street Alabama is an economic development tool that enhances the tax base of a community, fosters entrepreneurship, builds community capacity, and creates partnerships among key groups in a community. The purpose of Main Street Alabama is to provide training and resources to strengthen its designated communities with an organizational foundation including volunteer development, and economic impact training. “Birmingham Urban Trail and Multimodal Corridor” project will aid in connecting the epicenter of Historic 4th Avenue Business District into the progressive lanes of shared memories and anecdotes as we live, work and play in one of Birmingham’s celebrated districts.

By supporting these efforts, USDOT can showcase a project that aligns closely with its goals 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,

Mary M. Wirth

Mary M. Wirth, President/State Coordinator
Main Street Alabama