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Executive Director
Camille Spratling

February 9, 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:

Railroad Park Foundation 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 Quadrant Plan and City Center Master Plan, and as a key corridor in the Red Rock Trail Plan.

Railroad Park Foundation is the non-profit organization that manages Birmingham's Railroad Park, an internationally lauded greenspace serving more than 500,000 people each year. As our City's "front lawn," we recognize this project will make our community safer, healthier, more equitable and more sustainable.

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 Birmingham's application for RAISE Program funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Camille Spratling". The signature is written in black ink and is contained within a thin black rectangular border.

Camille Spratling
Executive Director, Railroad Park Foundation