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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 – Birmingham Urban Trail + Multimodal Corridor

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of REV Birmingham, I enthusiastically endorse the RAISE grant application “Birmingham Urban Trail + Multimodal Corridor Birmingham Civil Rights Crossroads: Reconnecting Historic Neighborhoods Through Active Mobility.” This project will improve connections between historically African American neighborhoods, Downtown Birmingham, and important Civil Rights sites.

REV Birmingham is a nonprofit organization that focuses on the revitalization and vibrancy of commercial districts in Birmingham. That includes Downtown as well as neighborhood business districts, where REV serves as a convener, vision caster, small business assistance resource, and catalytic developer. We have collaborated with many partners including the City of Birmingham and Urban Impact to develop a strategic plan for the equitable development and growth of Downtown’s Northwest Quadrant, which includes the Civil Rights District. This RAISE grant’s work would make real the vision of greater neighborhood connections, reinforcement of the historic African American business district, and create multimodal facilities where there are currently none.

This project is highlighted in many existing plans, including the Northwest Quadrant Plan and City Center Master Plan, and is a key corridor in the Red Rock Trail Plan.

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 conscious 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.

Sincerely,

David B. Fleming
President and CEO