



October 6, 2022

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Letter of Support – Reconnecting Communities Grant 2022

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Poplar Grove Community Council, I write in support of Salt Lake City's initiative to address east-west connections across the I-15 and north-south rail corridors, particularly for people walking, biking, and taking transit.

As a resident, who lives in West SLC, it is important that I stress the need for adequate connection to the rest of SLC. Our community has one grocery store, which means most of our grocery shopping is completed on the East side of SLC. The closest shopping mall is across the freeway, next is Sugar House or West Valley. High school options are greater on the East of the I-15, leaving families on the Westside with no option, but plenty of rail lines to navigate. As we return home, many of us are stuck at the train crossings. For those walking, or biking, the urge to beat the train increases, since we know that the wait could be upwards of 20 to 30 minutes. Though home is less than 3 minutes from the railroad crossing. The risks are high, Secretary Buttigieg, in our communities - the improvements are welcomed, and needed.

SLC is growing; particularly, the Westside. Without adequate connections, to keep up with the population increase, our communities will suffer continued inequality. Developers will refuse to consider our neighborhoods as an opportunity zone to provide sustainable amenities (malls, eateries, grocery stores, drug stores) that will drive the overall economy. Planning ahead for the inevitable growth, by improving the East-West connection, will provide sustainable options for those who live here, but work elsewhere in the valley. In turn, these accesses (for both sides of SLC) will add to Salt Lake City's positive growth.

I support Salt Lake City's grant application to the Reconnecting Communities program to conduct a comprehensive planning project to make improvements to multiple east-west crossings between 600 North and 2100 South. This work will improve our community, our well-being and grant us safe access to use the City as it was meant to be used by ALL its residents.

Sincerely,

Esther S. Jackson-Stowell
Chair, PGCC