

CYCLING WEST

DAVE ILTIS

PRESIDENT

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

RE: Salt Lake City Reconnecting Communities Grant 2022

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to support Salt Lake City's application for a Reconnecting Communities Grant to study the crossings of I-15 and the rail corridors that run parallel to it.

I-15 and the rail corridors bisect Salt Lake City, not only dividing it east to west, but they also create unsafe conditions for those attempting to cross the corridor by bike or by foot. Many of the bridges over I-15 and the railways have substandard facilities for people on foot and people on bikes. There have been multiple deaths either on these crossings or at the edges of them. The eastside and westside as a result are often divided economically and culturally. Better east-west crossings will result in greater equity in the city. Additionally, better crossings will result in more people choosing more environmentally friendly methods of transportation.

Personally, as a person who regularly uses a bike for transportation and recreation, I find that most of the crossings of I-15 are unsafe and unnerving. One must often travel many blocks from a direct path to find safe passage. If it is this difficult for me to feel comfortable, the average person on a bike who is less experienced may choose not to ride at all, to the detriment of themselves and the city.

It's time to make these crossings safer for all, and this study is the first step in this. Please consider funding fully Salt Lake City's grant application in support of better crossings of the north-south corridor for active transportation. We need to do as much as possible to shift people away from automobile transportation and towards active transportation and transit for the health of the planet. Without safe streets, this effort becomes much more difficult.

Sincerely,
Dave Iltis
President
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Cyclingutah.com
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