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DEPARTMENT *of* ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

October 12, 2022

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

RE: Letter of Support – Salt Lake City Reconnecting Communities Planning Grant 2022

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Salt Lake City Arts 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.

Art can help to transform an everyday task, such as a daily journey to work or school, into a rewarding experience. No part of our city needs more help in this regard than the east-west connections across I-15 and the railroad tracks within our city.

The Arts Council is keen to be involved in this project, which will include an opportunity for one or more artists to be included in the community discussion and design of improved east west connections. The Arts Council will participate with a call for artists, the selection of the participating artist or artists, and further facilitation of public art into the engineering design process for one or more of the target corridors.

The Arts Council and the Salt Lake City Transportation Division have had ongoing collaborations on several projects. We look forward to continuing our placemaking connections.

We 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 – including with public art.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Olmedo-González".

Renato Olmedo-González
Public Art Program Manager
Salt Lake City Arts Council

