

October 21, 2022

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

RE: Letter of Support – Reconnecting Communities Pilot Discretionary Grant Program

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Ballpark Community Council would like to express our support Salt Lake City's initiative to address the east-west connections across the I-15 and north-south rail corridors. We are especially concerned for people walking, biking, and utilizing public transit in this area.

The east-west corridor connections have been a challenge in Salt Lake City for decades. Most of these crossings are not friendly to use by bikers or pedestrians and have minimal transit options. Some of these crossings are considered dangerous for crossing. The prospects of improvements to these areas would be appreciated by both residents and businesses in the surrounding areas.

One of the critical elements is the lack of proper lighting. (This is a City-wide pedestrian concern) Another element is the lack of continuous sidewalks, with wheelchair accessible ramps at intersections. In addition, crossing areas are not always well marked and the traffic lights are not programmed to give strollers and wheelchairs, etc. enough time to cross the street safely.

The Ballpark Community Council supports Salt Lake City's grant application for the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Discretionary Grant Program to conduct a comprehensive planning project to make improvements to multiple east-west crossings between 600 North and 2100 South. This project will improve and benefit the communities on the east and west sides of this essential transit corridor. Your help with this grant, along with your support of our City and State's transportation infrastructure, is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Ballpark Community Council.

Jeff Sandstrom, BCC Board Member

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