



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

12 April 2022

**RE: Letter of Support – Salt Lake City RAISE Planning Grant 2022**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to you on behalf of the Bicycle Collective in support of Salt Lake City's 2022 RAISE grant application. The Bicycle Collective is the only non-profit community bike shop in Utah. We operate four retail locations across the state and offer the most reasonably priced and reliable bike you can find. We also provide a full range of programs to teach anyone how to maintain their bicycles. We have a particular focus on children, refugee families, and individuals experiencing homelessness. In 2020 alone, we delivered nearly 1400 bikes to Utah's in need – at no cost.

I serve as our organization's Board Chair, but in my day job I help plan and build Transit-Oriented Developments for the Utah Transit Authority. This background uniquely positions me to understand the critical gap the Collective fills in Utah's transportation system. We offer an affordable, self-reliant option to cover people's last-mile mobility needs. But we have little ability to extend that care beyond our front doors. We have little ability to improve road safety or the infrastructure our customers and clients rely on.

That is why the Bicycle Collective enthusiastically extends our full-throated support for Salt Lake City's application. Increasing safety throughout our bikeway is crucial to bridging the gap between the east and west side of our city. Salt Lake suffers from many of the same socioeconomic and opportunity disparities that other American cities face – major roadways and rail lines bisect our communities. Years ago, this was a line of demarcation for the haves and have-nots. But Salt Lake City and community groups have worked hard to break down those barriers, and the Collective is doing our part: we are in the final stages of fundraising for our new headquarter building<sup>1</sup> which will be located atop the city's new east-west bikeway, just blocks from a rail crossing in desperate need of reengineering. This opportunity with RAISE offers a rare chance to maximize the city's investments.

Thank you and the public servants at USDOT for your dedication to American communities and our collective transportation future.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SM", is written over a horizontal line.

Sean Murphy  
Board Chair of the Bicycle Collective

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<sup>1</sup> America's premiere example of a community bike shop: <https://bicyclecollective.org/pages/flagship-location>