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October 11, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE Ninth Floor
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write to request your full and fair consideration for the federal grant application submitted by Salt Lake City seeking a \$2 million Planning Grant through the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Discretionary Grant Program for the Salt Lake City East-West Connections Study. This project would enable the City to assess how to effectively reconnect communities divided by historic physical and socioeconomic barriers associated with 150 years of surface transportation infrastructure development.

Federal funding would support an alternatives analysis for strengthened east-west grade-separated crossings of I-15 and Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) freight line corridors to help local officials understand how to best reconnect the Eastside and Westside communities while enhancing pedestrian, bicycle, and transit infrastructure. Alternative considerations include the redevelopment of trails; reconstruction of I-15; land use shifts; and other options to improve connectivity, economic opportunity, mobility, safety, sustainability, and quality of life. Salt Lake City intends to leverage non-federal funding by partnering with groups such as UTA, UDOT, UPRR, and Patriot Rail/Salt Lake Garfield Western.

Again, I urge your full and fair consideration of the Reconnecting Communities Planning Grant application submitted by Salt Lake City. Please contact Jon Larsen, at (801) 535-7146 or jon.larsen@slcgov.com with any questions.

Sincerely,

Chris Stewart
Member of Congress