



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

7 October 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 Reconnecting Communities 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 over 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 which will be located alongside the city's new east-west bikeway, just blocks from a rail crossing in desperate need of redesign. This opportunity under Reconnecting Communities offers a rare chance to maximize the city's investments by creating safe alternatives to riding with mixed traffic.

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

Very Best,

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

Sean Murphy
Board Chair of the Bicycle Collective