

October 10, 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 Central Ninth Community Council Board 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.

Active rail transit and transport regularly cause delays in pedestrian and bike travel times in our area. Recently a member of our community reported leaving her 11 year old daughter at home for what she thought would be a fifteen minute trip one mile from her house and back to drop off materials for her home business. Due to the train crossing, the journey took 40 minutes, worrying her daughter. Inconveniences like this are common along the corridor in question. Bigger problems of safe crossings for the growing population in our neighborhood and historic inequity of what neighborhoods are impacted by transit delays from rail traffic can be addressed by improvements in the east-west crossings through the heart of downtown Salt Lake City.

I support Salt Lake City's grant application to the federal 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.

Sincerely,

Douglas Flagler
Chair of the Central Ninth Community Council