



October 4, 2022

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

RE: Letter of Support – Salt Lake City (Utah) "Reconnecting Communities" Grant

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of Wasatch Homeless Health Care dba. Fourth Street Clinic, I am honored to write a letter of support for 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. Fourth Street Clinic sits squarely in the corner of the proposed planning site and has a front-row seat to a major artery into the city on 400 South and sees the over-crowding, congestion, and multiple safety concerns on a daily basis.

Additionally, with over 30 years of experience providing services to vulnerable individuals and families, Fourth Street Clinic is keenly aware that reducing barriers caused by social determinants of health is key to accessible health care. According to the US Department of Health and Human Services Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion's Healthy People 2030, many people in the United States don't get needed health care services simply due to factors such as a lack of *transportation*, affordable housing, educational background, or discrimination. Even the neighborhood in which they live can be a barrier to accessing regular health care services if it lacks adequate, safe, and equitable transportation options.

Wasatch Homeless Health Care dba. Fourth Street Clinic whole-heartedly supports Salt Lake City's grant application to the "Reconnecting Communities" Grant program to conduct a comprehensive planning project to make improvements to multiple east-west crossings between 600 North and 2100 South. This work will, no doubt, impact and improve the health of our community.

Sincerely,

Janida Emerson  
CEO