



The City Library
THE SALT LAKE CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

October 20, 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 Grant

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Salt Lake City Public Library, 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.

The current transportation divide between the east and west sides of Salt Lake City directly impacts our library customers' ease of access to several of our library branch locations as well as our staff outreach to school classrooms. The first example I want to share with you shows the safety impact on school children from Jackson Elementary who cannot easily walk to the Marmalade Branch, their closest library, because they have to cross a major state-maintained road, 300 West. While there are crosswalks and stop lights lining this thoroughfare, the road speed, the width of the road, and younger children's knowledge of traffic safety can act as a major barrier to easy access to this important neighborhood resource and community space. The second example impacts our staff librarians who provide outreach to neighborhood schools on the east and west sides of our city. Railroad crossings divide the east side of 800 South Street at approximately 800 West Street. Often our outreach librarians are delayed while making the journey from either east to west or west to east for their scheduled classroom visits when trains traveling through that part of the city delay their travel time. These delays can be stressful as well as disheartening to the students and teachers we serve if the delayed arrival causes a classroom storytime outreach to be shortened or canceled. These classroom visits are important for connecting school children to their local libraries and the resources available to them to support literacy and their love of learning.

The Salt Lake City Public Library recognizes the social and economic divides that have impacted our community for a very long time. The Salt Lake City Public Library supports Salt Lake City's grant application to the 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,

Deborah Ehrman
Interim Executive Director

Main Library 210 E 400 S, SLC, UT 84111 801-524-8200

Anderson-Foothill Branch 1135 S 2100 E, SLC, UT 84108 801-594-8611

Chapman Branch 577 S 900 W, SLC, UT 84104 801-594-8623

Day-Riverside Branch 1575 W 1000 N, SLC, UT 84116 801-594-8632

Glendale Branch 1375 South Concord, SLC, UT 84104 801-594-8660

Marmalade Branch 280 W 500 N, SLC, UT 84103 801-594-8680

Sprague Branch 2131 S 1100 E, SLC, UT 84106 801-594-8640

Sweet Branch 455 F Street, SLC, UT 84103 801-594-8651
