

ERIN MENDENHALL  
Mayor



DEPARTMENT of **COMMUNITY**  
and **NEIGHBORHOODS**  
BLAKE THOMAS  
Director

10/13/2022

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 2022

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of The Sorenson Community Campus, I am writing 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 Sorenson Community Campus provides low-cost and no-cost services to the community in the Glendale neighborhood of Salt Lake City. The campus is located on the west side of I-15 and west of the major railroad line that runs north and south through the neighborhood, so we are well aware of the impact that these major transportation infrastructure lines have on daily life. Specifically, when the bridge on 1300 south over the rail lines was replaced a few years ago, it caused a tremendous impact for all of our patrons trying to travel east or coming from the east because they would have to go nearly a mile to get to the next bridge. It was quite a challenge!

I also appreciate the safety concerns that have been voiced by community members about the nearby railroad crossings and the difficulty with traffic and speeding on 1300 south/California Ave. Tragically, a young child was hit and killed just outside one of our buildings a few years ago. Anything that can be done to reduce the risk of future accidents is time and money well spent in our community.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Koty Lopez".

Koty Lopez  
Associate Director, Sorenson Community Campus  
Division of Youth and Family Services