



October 11, 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 Volunteers of America, Utah, 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.

Volunteers of America, Utah provides paths for vulnerable people, including those experiencing homelessness, to improve their lives and increase their self-reliance. VOA clients are seen at multiple facilities throughout the city and walk, bike, or take public transportation to receive care and supportive services. It is crucial to have safe and reliable routes and crossings for this community, especially around transit lines and the I-15 corridor.

One of the human service programs we offer is a detoxification unit for over 1,000 people a year who need help to stop using drugs and alcohol. Therefore, they are under the influence of substances as they make their way to our facility. Those who walk are having to navigate east-west transportation barriers in Salt Lake City. These barriers increase our concern for them.

I support Salt Lake City's grant application to Reconnecting Communities to conduct a comprehensive planning project to make improvements to multiple east-west crossings between 600 North and 2100 South. This work will greatly improve our community as a whole and provide a safer and more functional environment for those we serve.

Thank you.
Sincerely,

Kathy Bray
President and CEO



Volunteers of America, Utah
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