

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1012

June 25, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to express my strong support for the City of Atlanta and Atlanta BeltLine, Inc.'s *From Tracks to Trails, Reconnecting Atlanta Communities* project in their quest for the 2021 round of RAISE Discretionary Grants.

This important infrastructure reuse project, included in city and regional transportation plans, will advance the Atlanta BeltLine Southside Trail by constructing 1.9 miles of multi-use trail in a former railroad corridor. An investment in this project transforms an existing brownfield from a liability to an innovational asset that creates self-sustaining jobs, advances racial equity, and addresses climate change.

The additional construction will extend the completed Atlanta BeltLine corridor, addressing an urgent need for a safe east-west connection across Atlanta's Southside for pedestrians and cyclists traveling to work, school, commercial nodes, and recreational opportunities. The entire project is located within areas of persistent poverty to provide affordable mobility options for residents and to help close the gap between the BeltLine's completed Eastside and Westside Trails. The BeltLine receives more than 2 million visits annually. It serves as an alternative transportation option to residents who live and/or work near the corridor and reduces vehicle miles traveled and associated climate-changing greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles.

The Atlanta BeltLine has broad support from private and public sectors as a regional transportation solution, and as an economic generator. Approximately 23,300 permanent jobs located around the Atlanta BeltLine have been created through the end of 2019. Investing in this project alleviates transportation barriers, unites underserved communities, and increases access to clean and healthier environments for residents.

In this era of reduced access, the RAISE Discretionary Grant will play a fundamental role in connecting communities along the BeltLine to resources that may have been otherwise out of reach.

I am honored to support the application for participation in this grant program, and ask that it be given full and fair consideration. If you have any questions about this letter or if I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Mara Stark-Alcalá on my staff at 202-224-3643 or maras-a@warnock.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Reverend Raphael Warnock
United States Senator