The CHATT: Linking South Chattanooga

Letters of Support

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Please accept my support for the City of Chattanooga, Tennessee, in collaboration with the Trust for Public Land, and its application for the FY23 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program. The City is requesting funding for The CHATT: Relinking Chattanooga’s Southside project.

Assuming a favorable decision, this multi-modal trail project will improve access to transit, jobs, public resources, recreational amenities, and opportunities for economic growth. Proposed as the first major neighborhood link to the broadly successful Chattanooga Riverwalk, this project will tie together communities separated by geography and infrastructure, greatly advance mobility, and create economic opportunity in communities that haven’t seen significant investment in decades.

The CHATT RAISE proposal advances two key areas of focus - improving the region’s transportation infrastructure and creating better opportunities for the economy and job growth. The connection of this greenway to active areas of investment in one of America’s best mid-sized cities, will link nearby residents to jobs and opportunities for Chattanooga’s continued economic growth.

By supporting the City’s efforts, USDOT can showcase a project that delivers common sense economic development and critical infrastructure in parts of Chattanooga that are often overlooked. This project will deliver healthy, resilient, and integrated transportation options for residents and visitors of the southside of Chattanooga for many years to come.

Proudly serving the City of Chattanooga in the U.S. House of Representatives, I am pleased to support this worthy proposal, and I thank you in advance for your full and fair consideration of its success.

Sincerely,

Chuck Fleischmann  
Member of Congress
United States Senate

February 15, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to bring your attention to the grant application submitted by the City of Chattanooga for funding available through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program.

I understand that the City of Chattanooga is seeking grant funding for their proposed “The CHATT: Relinking Chattanooga’s Southside” project. The City of Chattanooga informs me that their proposed project would create a 1.3 mile urban trail on a former industrial railway corridor running from Southside Community Park to Alton Park Boulevard in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Further, the project would create economic revitalization, safer transportation, and greatly improve access to good and health services for Chattanooga’s southside communities.

Please give all due consideration to this request. Should you have any questions or need more information, please contact Alexander Gonzalez on my staff at (202) 224-3344.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator
February 24, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write to bring to your attention a grant application submitted by the Trust for Public Land and the City of Chattanooga for funding available through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program.

The Trust for Public Land and the City of Chattanooga are seeking funding for its proposed “The CHATT: Relinking Chattanooga’s Southside” project. The project would create a shared-use path that will improve access to transit, jobs, public resources, recreational amenities, and opportunities for economic mobility. The project will connect downtown Chattanooga to one of the city’s most active areas of investment and provide residents with job opportunities and economic growth.

Please give all due consideration to this request. Should you have any questions or need more information, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (202) 224-4944.

Sincerely,

Bill Hagerty  
United States Senator
February 23, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Chattanooga, Tennessee’s “The CHATT: Relinking Chattanooga’s Southside”
2023 RAISE Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing in support of the RAISE grant application entitled “The CHATT: Relinking Chattanooga’s Southside,” which is the result of a collaboration between the City of Chattanooga, the Trust for Public Land, and other local stakeholders.

This urban trail project, in storied lower-income communities of color on the southside of Chattanooga, will improve access to transit, jobs, public resources, recreational amenities, and opportunities of economic mobility. Proposed as the first major neighborhood link to the broadly successful Tennessee RiverPark and its Riverwalk trail system, this project will tie together communities separated by geography and infrastructure, greatly advancing mobility and creating economic opportunity in communities negatively impacted by disinvestment, contamination, and neglect.

This project represents a major investment in transportation infrastructure that will enhance safety and improve multimodal access in an Area of Persistent Poverty. It will greatly enhance access to opportunities for historically underserved communities, create an equitable transportation system that works for everyone, and progresses a more environmentally conscious network that enhances the safety of non-motorized users.

This project will deliver healthy, resilient, and integrated transportation options for residents and visitors of the southside of Chattanooga and will serve the City of Chattanooga and its residents for many years to come. The goals of this project align with TDOT’s mission to deliver a safe and reliable transportation system that supports economic development and quality of life for all Tennesseans.

I am confident that this project firmly aligns with the values and goals of the RAISE Grant Program and I greatly thank you for your consideration of this grant application.

Sincerely,

Howard H. Eley
Commissioner of Transportation
February 24, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: FY2023 RAISE Grant Application – The CHATT: Linking Chattanooga's Southside

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) strongly supports the RAISE grant application “The CHATT: Linking Chattanooga’s Southside,” which results from a collaboration between the City of Chattanooga, the Trust for Public Land, and other local stakeholders.

This urban trail project will improve access to transit, jobs, public resources, recreational amenities, and economic mobility opportunities for many historically lower-income communities of color on the southside of Chattanooga. Proposed as the first major neighborhood link to the broadly successful Chattanooga Riverwalk, this project will tie together communities separated by geography and infrastructure, greatly advancing mobility and creating economic opportunity in communities negatively impacted by disinvestment, contamination, and neglect.

TDEC is committed to protecting the health of Tennessee’s citizens and its environment and to promoting environmental equity in the administration of its programs. TDEC supported the successful development of an earlier Chattanooga greenway project in which early coordination with TDEC’s Division of Remediation allowed the city to enroll in the Division’s Voluntary Cleanup Oversight and Assistance Program (VOAP). Participation in VOAP is one element that enabled the city to receive an EPA brownfield remediation grant. We look forward to further collaboration on remediation strategies for segments along the proposed project area if needed. The RAISE grant would allow the city to build off the existing greenway, linking the Alton Park and Crabtree Farms communities while promoting healthy and safe communities and expanding opportunities for outdoor recreational experiences.
By supporting these efforts, USDOT can showcase a project closely aligned with the Biden Administration’s objectives, such as enhancing access to opportunities for historically underserved communities, creating an equitable transportation system that works for everyone, and progressing to a more environmentally conscience network that prioritizes non-motorized users. This project will deliver healthy, climate-friendly, resilient, and integrated transportation options for residents and visitors of the southside of Chattanooga. It will serve the City of Chattanooga and its residents for many years to come.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

David W. Salyers, P.E.
Commissioner
The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20590  

RE: FY2023 RAISE Grant Application – The CHATT: Linking Chattanooga’s Southside  

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:  

As Mayor of Hamilton County, I strongly support the RAISE grant application “The CHATT: Linking Chattanooga’s Southside,” which is the result of a collaboration between the City of Chattanooga, the Trust for Public Land, and other local stakeholders.  

This urban trail project, in storied lower-income communities of color on the southside of Chattanooga, will improve access to transit, jobs, public resources, recreational amenities, and opportunities of economic mobility. The proposed trail joins together communities separated by geography and infrastructure, greatly advancing mobility and creating economic opportunity in communities negatively impacted by disinvestment, contamination and neglect.  

Hamilton County’s investment in the Tennessee RiverPark has transformed how this community relates to its natural and cultural heritage. This network of parks and pathways has become an economic driver for our region, and I applaud the City of Chattanooga’s efforts to extend this transformation into neighborhoods historically isolated from economic growth.  

By supporting these efforts, USDOT can showcase a project enhancing access to opportunities for historically underserved communities, creating an equitable transportation system that works for everyone, and progressing to a more environmentally conscience network that prioritizes non-motorized users. This project will deliver healthy, climate-friendly, resilient, and integrated transportation options for residents and visitors of the southside of Chattanooga. It will serve the City of Chattanooga and its residents for many years to come.  

Thank you for considering Chattanooga’s application for RAISE Program funding.  

Sincerely  
Weston Wamp  
Hamilton County Mayor  

Cc: Tim Kelly, City of Chattanooga Mayor  
Noel Durant, TN State Director, Trust for Public Land
February 22, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Chattanooga-Hamilton County/North Georgia Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) is pleased to support the RAISE grant application entitled “The CHATT: Relinking Chattanooga’s Southside,” which is the result of a collaboration between the City of Chattanooga, the Trust for Public Land, and other local stakeholders.

This urban trail project, in storied lower-income communities of color on the southside of Chattanooga, will improve access to transit, jobs, public resources, recreational amenities, and opportunities of economic mobility. Proposed as the first major neighborhood link to the broadly successful Tennessee Riverpark and its Riverwalk trail system, this project will tie together communities separated by geography and infrastructure, greatly advancing mobility and creating economic opportunity in communities negatively impacted by disinvestment, contamination and neglect.

This project represents a major investment in transportation infrastructure that will enhance safety and improve multimodal access in an Area of Persistent Poverty. These goals align with the TPO’s mission to plan for a safe, accessible multimodal transportation network in the Greater Chattanooga region.

By supporting these efforts, USDOT can showcase a project that enhances access to opportunities for historically underserved communities, creates an equitable transportation system that works for everyone, and advances a more environmentally conscious network that enhances the safety of non-motorized users.

This project will deliver healthy, climate-friendly, resilient, and integrated transportation options for residents and visitors and will serve the city and its residents for many years to come.

Thank you for considering this application for RAISE Program funding.

Sincerely,

Todd E. Leamon
Executive Board Chair
Chattanooga-Hamilton County/North Georgia Transportation Planning Organization
February 17, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Support for The CHATT: Linking South Chattanooga RAISE Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to express my support for the RAISE grant application being submitted for the CHATT: Linking Chattanooga’s Southside by the City of Chattanooga, with support from Trust for Public Land (TPL). TPL is a national non-profit organization that works to connect everyone to the outdoors. For the last 8 years, we have worked closely with the City of Chattanooga to bring to life the CHATT Vision. In service of this vision, TPL is committed to providing $50,000 in funding for the project.

The CHATT will be a 1.4-mile multimodal infrastructure project being developed in South Chattanooga. It will be a transformational asset that uses transportation infrastructure to improve public health, enhance mobility, and promote equitable economic development in one of Chattanooga’s highest-need areas.

A RAISE grant award will provide essential funding to proactively and intentionally engage multiple historically disadvantaged communities in the design and development of the trail. This construction project will build on a legacy of the equity-driven process of participatory design, holistic engagement, and neighborhood stewardship. By partnering with the Chattanooga community and prioritizing the communities that have been the most disconnected, environmentally burdened, and historically underserved, this grant will support the comprehensive revitalization of the entire area.

I encourage U.S. DOT to support this project and help the City of Chattanooga and our communities have a healthier, more connected, and more equitable future.

Sincerely,

Di\_ane Regas
President & CEO
Trust for Public Land
The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: FY2023 RAISE Grant Application – The CHATT: Linking Chattanooga’s Southside

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As the President of Perimeter Properties, a leading landowner in the South Broad District, I strongly support Chattanooga’s application for the RAISE Discretionary Funding Program. “The CHATT: Relinking Chattanooga’s Southside” is the collaborative vision of the City of Chattanooga, the Trust for Public Land, neighborhoods, and other local stakeholders in our community. If completed, the CHATT will connect the South Broad District of Chattanooga to the rest of the city through 1.9 miles of urban trail.

For generations, disinvestment, contamination, and neglect have been the status quo for the communities of color in the South Broad District. The CHATT will invest in these communities by improving access to employment, recreation, education, public transit, and other public resources. The trail will also tie together formerly fragmented communities that have long been separated by geography and infrastructure. A unique opportunity for the South Broad District, the CHATT will allow historically overlooked neighborhoods to join in the economic advancement and cultural rebirth that the rest of Chattanooga is experiencing.

Because of its position alongside the I-24, the South Broad District is the western gateway to Chattanooga. My company is redeveloping the U.S. Pipe site (a landmark of South Broad) that sits immediately east of I-24 and west of the rest of the South Broad District. Over the next few years and in close consultation with local leaders, community groups, and other stakeholders, the dilapidated U.S. Pipe site will be reborn into a true work-live-play space that is walkable and accessible to all. The CHATT proposal is a compelling opportunity that aligns with our vision of a thriving South Chattanooga where quality jobs are just a walk or short bike ride from their neighborhoods to a vibrant addition to Chattanooga’s economy.

By supporting our shared vision for a renewed South Broad District, USDOT has an opportunity to provide historically underserved communities access to economic opportunities throughout our city via a safe, accessible, and environmentally friendly transportation option for non-motorized users. The CHATT will serve the City of Chattanooga and its residents for many years to come. It could also be yet another example of the positive impact that USDOT can have in communities like ours.

Thank you for considering Chattanooga’s application for the RAISE Discretionary Funding Program.

Sincerely

Gary Chazen  
President

Cc: Tim Kelly, City of Chattanooga Mayor  
   Noel Durant, TN State Director, Trust for Public Land
The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: FY2023 RAISE Grant Application – The CHATT:

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

JA Fielden Co and 33 Broad Companies strongly supports the RAISE grant application “The CHATT: Linking Chattanooga’s Southside,” which is the result of a collaboration between the City of Chattanooga, the Trust for Public Land, and other local stakeholders.

This urban trail project, in storied lower-income communities of color on the southside of Chattanooga, will improve access to transit, jobs, public resources, recreational amenities, and opportunities of economic mobility. Proposed as the first major neighborhood link to the broadly successful Chattanooga Riverwalk, this project will tie together communities separated by geography and infrastructure, greatly advancing mobility and creating economic opportunity in communities negatively impacted by disinvestment, contamination and neglect.

JA Fielden Co and 33 Broad Companies has proudly partnered with the City of Chattanooga to redevelop a blighted vacant warehouse brownfield property into a future mixed use community. Our projects will create needed housing, dining, shopping and future employment options for existing Southside residents as well as new residents to Chattanooga’s rapidly growing community. Our Company recognized an exciting opportunity for a public/private partnership with the City as well as the Trust for Public Land to design and build out a portion of the Alton Park Connector to assist in jumpstarting this great project. The continued build-out of the greenway connector is in keeping Chattanooga’s long-term vision for connectivity to underserved communities like South Broad and Alton Park.

By supporting these efforts, USDOT can showcase a project closely aligned with the Biden Administration’s objectives, such as enhancing access to opportunities for historically underserved communities, creating an equitable transportation system that works for everyone, and progressing to a more environmentally conscience network that prioritizes non-motorized users. This project will deliver healthy, climate-friendly, resilient, and integrated transportation options for residents and visitors of the southside of Chattanooga. It will serve the City of Chattanooga and its residents for many years to come.

Thank you for considering our application for RAISE Program funding.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Joe Fielden  
JA Fielden Co Inc & 33 Broad LLC
February 22, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: FY2023 RAISE Grant Application – The CHATT: Linking Chattanooga’s Southside

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Lyndhurst Foundation is pleased to offer its fervent support for the RAISE grant application “The CHATT: Linking Chattanooga’s Southside,” a collaborative undertaking of the City of Chattanooga, the Trust for Public Land, and other local stakeholders.

This urban trail project, located within storied lower-income communities of color on the southside of Chattanooga, will improve access to transit, jobs, public resources, recreational amenities, and opportunities for economic mobility. Proposed as the first major neighborhood link to the renowned Chattanooga Riverwalk, this project will knit together communities that are currently separated by geography and infrastructure and will significantly enhance mobility and economic opportunity in communities that are negatively impacted by disinvestment, contamination and neglect.

The Lyndhurst Foundation invests in collaborative endeavors that improve the well-being and vitality of people, places, and natural systems in the Chattanooga region through strategies that support equitable, inclusive, and sustainable outcomes. We strongly support the development of urban pathways and green infrastructure that enhance bicycle and pedestrian connectivity and augment access between our neighborhoods and the many assets that our city has to offer. We are particularly interested in urban pathways like The CHATT that will substantially improve connectivity and access for underserved neighborhoods on our southside. The CHATT will provide new connections with surrounding neighborhoods and to broader shared asset like the Riverwalk while providing improved access to the outdoors, to green spaces, and to opportunities for exercise and physical activities.
By supporting these efforts, USDOT can showcase a project that is closely aligned with such Biden Administration objectives as enhancing access to opportunities for historically underserved communities, creating an equitable transportation system that works for everyone, and progressing to a more environmentally conscience network that prioritizes non-motorized users. This project will deliver healthy, climate-friendly, resilient, and integrated transportation options for residents and visitors of the southside of Chattanooga for many years to come.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our application for RAISE Program funding.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Macon C. Toledano
The Lyndhurst Foundation
February 23, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: FY2023 RAISE Grant Application – The CHATT: Linking Chattanooga’s Southside

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Benwood Foundation strongly supports the RAISE grant application “The CHATT: Linking Chattanooga’s Southside,” which is the result of a collaboration between the City of Chattanooga, the Trust for Public Land, and other local stakeholders.

This urban trail project, in storied lower-income communities of color on the southside of Chattanooga, will improve access to transit, jobs, public resources, recreational amenities, and opportunities of economic mobility. Proposed as the first major neighborhood link to the broadly successful Chattanooga Riverwalk, this project will tie together communities separated by geography and infrastructure, greatly advancing mobility and creating economic opportunity in communities negatively impacted by disinvestment, contamination and neglect.

The Benwood Foundation works in the neighborhoods connected by this project to support healthy thriving communities where residents can prosper. The barriers of Chattanooga Creek and Interstate 24 have isolated this significant portion of urban Chattanooga, and the proposed trail corridor will create a much-needed walking and biking corridor link across South Chattanooga.

By supporting these efforts, USDOT can showcase a project closely aligned with the Biden Administration’s objectives, such as enhancing access to opportunities for historically underserved communities, creating an equitable transportation system that works for everyone, and progressing to a more environmentally conscience network that prioritizes non-motorized users. This project will deliver healthy, climate-friendly, resilient, and integrated transportation options for residents and visitors of the southside of Chattanooga. It will serve the City of Chattanooga and its residents for many years to come.

Thank you for considering our application for RAISE Program funding.

Sincerely,

Jeff Pfitzer, Program Director
Benwood Foundation
The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: FY2023 RAISE Grant Application – The CHATT: Linking Chattanooga’s Southside

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Westside Missionary Baptist Church and Net Resource Foundation strongly support the RAISE grant application “The CHATT: Linking Chattanooga’s Southside,” which is the result of a collaboration between the City of Chattanooga, the Trust for Public Land, and other local stakeholders.

This urban trail project, in storied lower-income communities of color on the southside of Chattanooga, will improve access to transit, jobs, public resources, recreational amenities, and opportunities of economic mobility. Proposed as the first major neighborhood link to the broadly successful Chattanooga Riverwalk, this project will tie together communities separated by geography and infrastructure, greatly advancing mobility and creating economic opportunity in communities negatively impacted by disinvestment, contamination and neglect.

Church Westside Missionary Baptist Church is about creating a warm, welcoming and worshipful environment. It is our goal to engage in holistic ministry. A ministry that accepts people where they are, but won’t leave them where they are. We are a Spirit-filled church that take our social obligations (Matthew 22:35-39; Matthew 25) seriously. We believe that our love for God is made evident by the love we share with people. As a community centered program of Westside Missionary Baptist church, Net Resource Foundation is challenging systemic issues through mentorship and community-building programs in the South Chattanooga Community. The CHATT grant proposal strongly aligns with our priorities to advance equity driven investments to bring South Chattanooga into the greater renaissance story of this city. As longtime community partners of Trust for Public Land, we’re grateful for their continued advocacy on securing funding to construct this vital pathway.

By supporting these efforts, USDOT can showcase a project closely aligned with the Biden Administration’s objectives, such as enhancing access to opportunities for historically underserved communities, creating an equitable transportation system that works for everyone, and progressing to a more environmentally conscience network that prioritizes non-motorized users. This project will deliver healthy, climate-friendly, resilient, and integrated transportation options for residents and visitors of the southside of Chattanooga. It will serve the City of Chattanooga and its residents for many years to come.

Thank you for considering our application for RAISE Program funding.

Sincerely
Reverend George W. Maize V  
Senior Pastor-Elect  
Westside Missionary Baptist Church

Raquetta Dotley  
Executive Director  
Net Resource Foundation
The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: FY2023 RAISE Grant Application – The CHATT:

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Crabtree Farms of Chattanooga, strongly supports the RAISE grant application “The CHATT: Relinking Chattanooga’s Southside,” which is the result of a collaboration between the City of Chattanooga, the Trust for Public Land, and other local stakeholders.

This urban trail project, in storied lower-income communities of color on the southside of Chattanooga, will improve access to transit, jobs, public resources, recreational amenities, and opportunities of economic mobility. Proposed as the first major neighborhood link to the broadly successful Chattanooga Riverwalk, this project will tie together communities separated by geography and infrastructure, greatly advancing mobility and creating economic opportunity in communities negatively impacted by disinvestment, contamination and neglect.

Crabtree Farms of Chattanooga, located in the Clifton Hills neighborhood, is a non-profit urban farm celebrating 25 years in 2023. We have been preparing for this exciting connector trail. Working closely with our neighbors in both Clifton Hills and Alton Park we hear of the many challenges they face, in particular around food access. While we have been amping up outreach and working alongside our neighbors in crafting solutions and programming to address food access, this connector trail will be a key transportation route to the farm, where families come to grow food, purchase produce and participate in educational and social activities. Our neighbors envision safe spaces to ride bicycles and walk, to forage food (i.e. pick wild berries), and congregate in the outdoors. This project opens up these opportunities while creating better connectivity to the greater Chattanooga community. We are excited to both support this effort and participate in making our neighbors' vision a reality.

By supporting these efforts, USDOT can showcase a project closely aligned with the Biden Administration's objectives, such as enhancing access to opportunities for historically underserved communities, creating an equitable transportation system that works for everyone, and progressing to a more environmentally conscious network that prioritizes non-motorized users. This project will deliver healthy, climate-friendly, resilient, and integrated transportation options for residents and visitors of the southside of Chattanooga. It will serve the City of Chattanooga and its residents for many years to come.

Thank you for considering our application for RAISE Program funding.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Melonie Lusk, Crabtree Farms of Chattanooga
Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The BLVD Project strongly supports the RAISE grant application “The CHATT: Linking Chattanooga’s Southside,” which is the result of a collaboration between the City of Chattanooga, the Trust for Public Land, and other local stakeholders.

This urban trail project, in storied lower-income communities of color on the southside of Chattanooga, will improve access to transit, jobs, public resources, recreational amenities, and opportunities of economic mobility. Proposed as the first major neighborhood link to the broadly successful Chattanooga Riverwalk, this project will tie together communities separated by geography and infrastructure, greatly advancing mobility and creating economic opportunity in communities negatively impacted by disinvestment, contamination and neglect.

The BLVD Project works along the 2.2-mile Rossville Blvd corridor to renew the beloved community to a place of beauty, safety, and vibrant economy. The CHATT RAISE project is a critical piece of connecting disparate communities adjacent to Rossville Blvd. The barriers of Chattanooga Creek and Interstate 24 have isolated this significant portion of urban Chattanooga, and the proposed trail corridor will create a much-needed walking and biking corridor link across South Chattanooga. Additionally, this path will pass by Clifton Hills Elementary School and support children’s access to neighborhood points of interest such as Crabtree Farms and East Lake Park.

By supporting these efforts, USDOT can showcase a project closely aligned with the Biden Administration’s objectives, such as enhancing access to opportunities for historically underserved communities, creating an equitable transportation system that works for everyone, and progressing to a more environmentally conscience network that prioritizes non-motorized users. This project will deliver healthy, climate-friendly, resilient, and integrated transportation options for residents and visitors of the southside of Chattanooga. It will serve the City of Chattanooga and its residents for many years to come.

Thank you for considering our application for RAISE Program funding.

Sincerely

[Signature]
Heather Herweyer
BLVD Project Co-Director
The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: FY2023 RAISE Grant Application – The CHATT:

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

ELLA Library strongly supports the RAISE grant application “The CHATT: Relinking Chattanooga’s Southside,” which is the result of a collaboration between the City of Chattanooga, the Trust for Public Land, and other local stakeholders. This urban trail project, in storied lower-income communities of color on the southside of Chattanooga, will improve access to transit, jobs, public resources, recreational amenities, and opportunities of economic mobility. Proposed as the first major neighborhood link to the broadly successful Chattanooga Riverwalk, this project will tie together communities separated by geography and infrastructure, greatly advancing mobility and creating economic opportunity in communities negatively impacted by disinvestment, contamination and neglect.

ELLA Library advocates for our community to explore public spaces safely, and this urban trail would allow our community to connect with jobs, resources, and recreation safely. By supporting these efforts, USDOT can showcase a project closely aligned with the Biden Administration’s objectives, such as enhancing access to opportunities for historically underserved communities, creating an equitable transportation system that works for everyone, and progressing to a more environmentally conscious network that prioritizes non-motorized users. This project will deliver healthy, climate-friendly, resilient, and integrated transportation options for residents and visitors of the southside of Chattanooga. It will serve the City of Chattanooga and its residents for many years to come.

Thank you for considering our application for RAISE Program funding.

Sincerely,

Jazmine LeBlanc  
ELLA Library
February 20, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20590  

RE: FY2023 RAISE Grant Application – The CHATT: Linking Chattanooga’s Southside

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Green|spaces strongly supports the RAISE grant application “The CHATT: Linking Chattanooga’s Southside,” which is the result of a collaboration between the City of Chattanooga, the Trust for Public Land, and other local stakeholders.

This urban trail project, in storied lower-income communities of color on the southside of Chattanooga, will improve access to transit, jobs, public resources, recreational amenities, and opportunities of economic mobility. Proposed as the first major neighborhood link to the broadly successful Chattanooga Riverwalk, this project will tie together communities separated by geography and infrastructure, greatly advancing mobility, and creating economic opportunity in communities negatively impacted by disinvestment, contamination and neglect.

Green|spaces is Chattanooga’s sustainability nonprofit and a close partner with the Trust for Public Land on a wide range of initiatives. Our award-winning programs focus on improving environmental and quality of life outcomes in vulnerable communities; helping businesses identify and improve their environmental, social, and governance (ESG) performance; advancing green building practices through consulting, training and workforce development; and coordinating long term sustainability strategies for the Chattanooga region with over 50 partner organizations. For these efforts we have received the Governor’s Environmental Stewardship Award twice, and the Chattanooga Chamber of Commerce’s first ever Community Collaborator Award.

One of our most successful collaborations with the Trust for Public Land has been with our Build it Green Leadership and Workforce Development Program which is part of the AmeriCorps Opportunity Youth Service Initiative and the Partnership for the Civilian Climate Corps. With TPL, we have provided opportunities for the young men and women who have grown up in Chattanooga’s historically disadvantaged communities to build mobile bookshelves from a canoe as a way to show how creativity and construction can transform both objects and communities. In this program we use the analogy of sustainable development to talk about building a sustainable life with housing, employment, health, transportation, and livable wages as the foundation. Build it Green members also learn about how climate change affects their neighborhoods and how both social and physical infrastructure like the CHATT can improve lives on good days and save lives in an emergency.

By supporting these efforts, USDOT can showcase a project closely aligned with the Biden Administration’s objectives, such as enhancing access to opportunities for historically underserved communities, creating an equitable transportation system that works for everyone, and progressing to a more environmentally conscience network that prioritizes non-motorized users. This project will deliver healthy, climate-friendly, resilient, and integrated transportation options for residents and visitors of the southside of Chattanooga. It will serve the City of Chattanooga and its residents for many years to come.

Thank you for considering our application for RAISE Program funding.

Sincerely,

Michael Walton AIA, NCARB, LEED AP  
Executive Director  
green|spaces
The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: FY2023 RAISE Grant Application – The CHATT:

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Chattanoogans in Action for Love, Equality and Benevolence (CALEB) strongly supports the RAISE grant application “The CHATT: Linking Chattanooga’s Southside,” which is the result of a collaboration between the City of Chattanooga, the Trust for Public Land, and other local stakeholders.

This urban trail project, in storied lower-income communities of color on the southside of Chattanooga, will improve access to transit, jobs, public resources, recreational amenities, and opportunities of economic mobility. Proposed as the first major neighborhood link to the broadly successful Chattanooga Riverwalk, this project will tie together communities separated by geography and infrastructure, greatly advancing mobility and creating economic opportunity in communities negatively impacted by disinvestment, contamination and neglect.

CALEB is a coalition of faith communities, labor unions and community-based organizations working together to build power for working-class and marginalized communities in Chattanooga and Tennessee. With support from the city administration, our organization is currently facilitating negotiations between community groups and private developers in South Chattanooga in an effort to secure the first community benefits agreement in our city’s history. Municipal funding for a publicly-owned baseball stadium is set to anchor remediation and development on 140 acres of industrial brownfields near the proposed trail site. Our organization’s hope is that clear commitments in wages, targeted hiring and infrastructure can help address economic and social inequality rather than exacerbate it. To that end, the CHATT and Alton Park Connector will be a key element in our city’s infrastructure changes to more fully serve community residents.

By supporting these efforts, USDOT can showcase a project closely aligned with the Biden Administration's objectives, such as enhancing access to opportunities for historically underserved communities, creating an equitable transportation system that works for everyone, and progressing to a more environmentally conscience network that prioritizes non-motorized users. This project will deliver healthy, climate-friendly, resilient, and integrated transportation options for residents and visitors of the southside of Chattanooga. It will serve the City of Chattanooga and its residents for many years to come.

Thank you for considering our application for RAISE Program funding.

Sincerely,

Michael Gilliland  
Organizing Director, CALEB
The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: FY2023 RAISE Grant Application – The CHATT

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

White Oak Bicycle Cooperative strongly supports the RAISE grant application “The CHATT: Relinking Chattanooga’s Southside,” which is the result of a collaboration between the City of Chattanooga, the Trust for Public Land, and other local stakeholders.

This urban trail project, in storied lower-income communities of color on the southside of Chattanooga, will improve access to transit, jobs, public resources, recreational amenities, and opportunities of economic mobility. Proposed as the first major neighborhood link to the broadly successful Chattanooga Riverwalk, this project will tie together communities separated by geography and infrastructure, greatly advancing mobility and creating economic opportunity in communities negatively impacted by disinvestment, contamination and neglect.

White Oak Bicycle Cooperative is dedicated to providing access to cycling as a means of transportation and recreation, focusing on children, lower-income households, and individuals experiencing homelessness in the Chattanooga Region. We believe that cycling is not only an environmentally friendly alternative to driving but also an affordable and accessible form of transportation and recreation for many residents in our community. However, we also recognize that many individuals in lower-income areas face significant barriers to cycling, such as a lack of safe and accessible infrastructure. The CHATT project would be a transformational investment in the community, helping to address this equity gap.

By supporting these efforts, USDOT can showcase a project closely aligned with the Biden Administration’s objectives, such as enhancing access to opportunities for historically underserved communities, creating an equitable transportation system that works for everyone, and progressing to a more environmentally conscious network that prioritizes non-motorized users. This project will deliver healthy, climate-friendly, resilient, and integrated transportation options for residents and visitors of the southside of Chattanooga. It will serve the City of Chattanooga and its residents for many years to come.

Thank you for considering this application for RAISE funding.

Sincerely,

Blake Pierce, White Oak Bicycle Cooperative
The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20590  

RE: FY2023 RAISE Grant Application – The CHATT:  

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:  

The Chattanooga Community Fridge strongly supports the RAISE grant application “The CHATT: Relinking Chattanooga’s Southside,” which is the result of a collaboration between the City of Chattanooga, the Trust for Public Land, and other local stakeholders.  

This urban trail project, in storied lower-income communities of color on the southside of Chattanooga, will improve access to transit, jobs, public resources, recreational amenities, and opportunities of economic mobility. Proposed as the first major neighborhood link to the broadly successful Chattanooga Riverwalk, this project will tie together communities separated by geography and infrastructure, greatly advancing mobility and creating economic opportunity in communities negatively impacted by disinvestment, contamination and neglect.  

The mission of the Chattanooga Community Fridge is to build stronger communities by reducing food insecurity and food waste. We promote equal access to fresh produce through the installation of public refrigerators in Clifton Hills and other communities in order to provide food at the neighborhood level. The Chattanooga Community Fridge strongly supports the Alton Park Connector because we believe people deserve access to nutritious, quality food. This connector would increase access to the fridges, multiple grocery stores, farms, and other sources of fresh quality food by unlocking a multi-modal transportation corridor for many underserved communities in a city that is divided by industrial and geographic barriers.  

By supporting these efforts, USDOT can showcase a project closely aligned with the Biden Administration’s objectives, such as enhancing access to opportunities for historically underserved communities, creating an equitable transportation system that works for everyone, and progressing to a more environmentally conscious network that prioritizes non-motorized users. This project will deliver healthy, climate-friendly, resilient, and integrated transportation options for residents and visitors of the southside of Chattanooga. It will serve the City of Chattanooga and its residents for many years to come.  

Thank you for considering our application for RAISE Program funding.  

Sincerely  

Viridiana Marin, The Chattanooga Community Fridge
The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20590  

RE: FY2023 RAISE Grant Application – The CHATT:  

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:  

WaterWays strongly supports the RAISE grant application “The CHATT: Linking Chattanooga’s Southside,” which is the result of a collaboration between the City of Chattanooga, the Trust for Public Land, and other local stakeholders.  

This urban trail project, in storied lower-income communities of color on the southside of Chattanooga, will improve access to transit, jobs, public resources, recreational amenities, and opportunities of economic mobility. Proposed as the first major neighborhood link to the broadly successful Chattanooga Riverwalk, this project will tie together communities separated by geography and infrastructure, greatly advancing mobility and creating economic opportunity in communities negatively impacted by disinvestment, contamination and neglect.  

WaterWays has a long history of education in this neighborhood, getting urban kids outdoors to learn about their environment. We also are collaborating with the community to establish the Milt Jackson Environmental College for adults in the communities patterned off a very successful similar program a decade ago. The goal of this college is to ensure community members understand the environmental and social history of their community and empowered to be a part of improving the local watershed. The linkage with The Chatt will be an incredible asset, not only linking South Chattanoogans to the Riverwalk and other amenities, but also to Chattanooga Creek, once the most polluted creek in our region, but on the upswing now.  

By supporting these efforts, USDOT can showcase a project closely aligned with the Biden Administration's objectives, such as enhancing access to opportunities for historically underserved communities, creating an equitable transportation system that works for everyone, and progressing to a more environmentally conscience network that prioritizes non-motorized users. This project will deliver healthy, climate-friendly, resilient, and integrated transportation options for residents and visitors of the southside of Chattanooga. It will serve the City of Chattanooga and its residents for many years to come.  

Thank you for considering our application for RAISE Program funding. We look forward to your response.  

Very truly yours,  

Mary Beth H. Sutton  
Executive Director
February 27, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: FY2023 RAISE Grant Application – The CHATT: Relinking Chattanooga’s Southside

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As educational, faith-based and community leaders in South Chattanooga, we whole-heartedly support the RAISE grant application “The CHATT: Relinking Chattanooga’s Southside.” This application is the result of a collaboration between the City of Chattanooga, the Trust for Public Land, and other local stakeholders.

Proposed as the first major neighborhood link to the broadly successful Chattanooga Riverwalk, this urban trail project will tie together communities separated by geography and infrastructure; greatly advancing mobility and creating economic opportunity in areas negatively impacted by disinvestment, contamination and neglect.

It will connect the Riverwalk and a commercial/tourism/housing district to a park in an historic African American neighborhood, an urban farm, and the city’s first park. It will redevelop an abandoned railway and other brownfields. It also will increase residents’ access to transit, jobs, public resources, recreational and entertainment amenities, and opportunities for improved health and economic mobility. In addition, it will serve as a walking science laboratory for students attending area schools.

By supporting these efforts, USDOT can showcase a project closely aligned with the Biden Administration’s objectives, such as enhancing access to opportunities for historically underserved communities, creating an equitable transportation system that works for everyone, and progressing to a more environmentally conscience network that prioritizes non-motorized users. This project will deliver healthy, climate-friendly, resilient, and integrated transportation options for residents and visitors of the southside of Chattanooga. It will serve the City of Chattanooga and its residents for many years to come.

Cordially,

Raquetta Dotley, Representative
Chattanooga City Council, District 7

Reginald F. Smith, II, Executive Director
The Bethlehem Center

Marcia Griffin, CEO & Co-Founder
Chattanooga Charter School of Excellence

H. Maria Noel, President
South Chattanooga Community Association
The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: FY2023 RAISE Grant Application – The CHATT:

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Urban League of Greater Chattanooga strongly supports the RAISE grant application “The CHATT: Linking Chattanooga’s Southside,” which is the result of a collaboration between the City of Chattanooga, the Trust for Public Land, and other local stakeholders.

This urban trail project, in storied lower-income communities of color on the southside of Chattanooga, will improve access to transit, jobs, public resources, recreational amenities, and opportunities of economic mobility. Proposed as the first major neighborhood link to the broadly successful Chattanooga Riverwalk, this project will tie together communities separated by geography and infrastructure, greatly advancing mobility and creating economic opportunity in communities negatively impacted by disinvestment, contamination and neglect.

The Urban League of Greater Chattanooga has operated in Chattanooga for 40 years, with the mission of enabling African Americans, other ethnic minorities, and disadvantaged persons to achieve economic self-reliance, parity, power and civil rights. In our recently released State of Black Chattanooga report, we highlighted the clear lack of parity experienced by Black residents in Chattanooga, as compared with white residents, in the areas of health and economics, amongst other topics. And while the Urban League works each day to address these disparities and to realize a Chattanooga where race is no longer a predictor of well-being outcomes, we need and support partners and projects that also invest in a place-based strategy for economic, social, and racial equity. This urban trail project will offer a pathway to economic revitalization to both a historically Black neighborhood that has experienced disinvestment, as well as a neighborhood with an increasing Latinx population. These communities have experienced the first-hand impact of poor environmental decisions on their collective health and well-being, and have had to consistently advocate for themselves. This project is essential because it provides these communities something that has not historically come easy: access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work.

By supporting these efforts, USDOT can showcase a project closely aligned with the Biden Administration's objectives, such as enhancing access to opportunities for historically underserved communities, creating an equitable transportation system that works for everyone, and progressing to a more environmentally conscious network that prioritizes non-motorized users. This project will deliver healthy, climate-friendly, resilient, and integrated transportation options for residents and visitors of the southside of Chattanooga. It will serve the City of Chattanooga and its residents for many years to come.

Thank you for considering our application for RAISE Program funding.

Sincerely,

Sarah Conception,  
Senior Director of Policy and Administration  
Urban League of Greater Chattanooga
February 20, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: FY2023 RAISE Grant Application – The CHATT:

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

McKee Foods strongly supports the RAISE grant application “The CHATT: Linking Chattanooga’s Southside,” which is the result of a collaboration between the City of Chattanooga, the Trust for Public Land, and other local stakeholders.

This urban trail project, in storied lower-income communities of color on the southside of Chattanooga, will improve access to transit, jobs, public resources, recreational amenities, and opportunities of economic mobility. Proposed as the first major neighborhood link to the broadly successful Chattanooga Riverwalk, this project will tie together communities separated by geography and infrastructure, greatly advancing mobility and creating economic opportunity.

Several employees of McKee Foods live within walking distance of this project and will benefit from its completion. McKee Foods is highly interested in supporting parks and greenways for communities, especially communities from which we draw employees. Our commitment is demonstrated by over $18 million donated since 2008 to parks, trails and greenways, mostly in cities and towns where our employees live. These donations were made via the program “OH! - the Outdoor Happiness Movement” and combines corporate gifts and McKee Foods owners’ gifts. In October 2021, I gave $250,000 (personal funds) to the Trust for Public Land to jump start this specific project.

By supporting these efforts, USDOT can showcase a project closely aligned with the Biden Administration’s stated objectives, such as enhancing access to opportunities for historically underserved communities. This project will deliver enhanced transportation options for residents and visitors of the southside of Chattanooga. It will serve the City of Chattanooga and its residents for many years to come.

Thank you for considering the application for RAISE Program funding.

Sincerely,

McKee Foods Corporation

Chris McKee
President and COO