



[Statement in Support of Ada County Highway District](#)

[Access to Opportunity Project, Garden City and Boise, ID](#)

[2022 RAISE Transportation Planning Grant](#)

The Honorable Peter Paul Montgomery Buttigieg
Office of the US Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Thank you for your time and consideration on the **ACHD Access to Opportunity project**. We are in an explosive growth period in the Boise Valley and that growth is continuing to cause stresses in existing municipal infrastructure, both hard and soft. As developers from out of state move in to capitalize on local market dislocations, they are often drawn to the path of least resistance. **This RAISE grant would address issues of equity in establishing safe pathways of travel and transit to/over/through the Historically Disadvantaged Communities we work and live in within the Garden City, Idaho, footprint.**

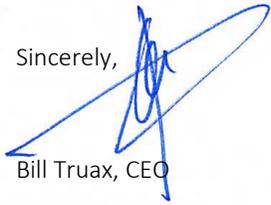
As a vested owner of various properties in Garden City impacted by this grant request, **we ask that the USDOT review this project favorably.**

For our Boise Valley, these growth stresses mean projects further out from the urban centers will further strain existing and future Boise Valley infrastructure, like roads and utilities. In the near term, urban infill will appear to cause more strains than greenfield development, but in the long term, we need redevelopment of critical infrastructure and transit option for Boise Valley to grow sustainably. Critically, these stresses do not apply to all members of the Boise Valley equally. They are felt more by disadvantaged communities where tax rolls and aging infrastructure are prohibitive to equity.

The Active transportation projects proposed by ACHD **remove barriers for people who walk and ride bicycles and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Benefits to people who walk include providing sidewalks and safe, enhanced pedestrian crossings where they currently do not exist, creating connections to transit routes, and bringing older sidewalks and crossings up to Americans with Disabilities Act standards.** Benefits for people who ride bikes include providing safe, low-stress, enhanced bike lanes, and connections to transit routes and recreation. These projects were selected for their benefits, which include **providing disadvantaged communities access to jobs, healthcare, education, transit, grocery, recreation, and the Boise River Greenbelt transportation network.** In addition, these projects will explore **private partnerships, environmentally friendly stormwater solutions, and innovative designs.**

ACHD does not, however, have the funds to make the entire greenbelt or pedestrian corridors safe for folks at all hours, or to make upgrades to deteriorating water and sewer systems without funds like the RAISE Grant. The redevelopment of the river corridor along this section will do just that by adding updated security systems, hard infrastructure and people and will strengthen the linkages along our most distinguishing feature in Garden City.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bill Truax', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Bill Truax, CEO

Galena Equity Partners LLC

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