

Mike Crapo
United States Senator
239 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

James E. Risch
United States Senator
483 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510



Mike Simpson
Member of Congress
2084 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Russ Fulcher
Member of Congress
1520 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

April 4, 2022

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

RE: RAISE 2022 Grant Request: Access to Opportunity Project, Cities of Garden City and Boise, Idaho

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We write this letter in support of the Ada County Highway District's (ACHD's) application for a US Department of Transportation RAISE grant for the Access to Opportunity Project in the Cities of Garden City and Boise, Idaho.

The greater Boise, Idaho, area is one of the fastest-growing regions in the nation. The unprecedented growth creates the need to look at different options and create opportunities for neighborhoods that are historically underserved. The neighborhoods in the Access to Opportunity project include populations who are low-income and need safer alternatives for transportation and better access to jobs and services.

The Access to Opportunity Project will develop projects to remove barriers for people who walk and ride bicycles as their primary mode of transportation. The project will create better access to basic services, as well as jobs and recreational opportunities near their neighborhoods and connections to the entire region through improved transit connections. Once the project is completed, residents will have a better quality of life and more opportunities than ever before.

We urge the US Department of Transportation to give this application all due consideration.

Sincerely,



MIKE CRAPO
United States Senator

JAMES E. RISCH
United States Senator



MIKE SIMPSON
Member of Congress

RUSS FULCHER
Member of Congress

c: Director Bruce Wong, Ada County Highway District
Tom Ferch, Transportation Funding Coordinator, Ada County Highway District



ADA COUNTY

COMMISSIONERS'
OFFICE
200 W. Front Street
Boise, Idaho 83702
(208) 287-7000
Fax: (208) 287-7009
boccl@adacounty.id.gov
www.adacounty.id.gov

April 4, 2022

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

RE: Support for Ada County Highway District Access to Opportunity Project

Secretary Buttigieg:

Ada County is in support of the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant application submitted by the Ada County Highway District (ACHD) for pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure improvements within historically disadvantaged areas of Boise, Garden City and unincorporated Ada County.

Ada County encourages alternative means of transportation, and the proposed improvements will remove barriers and improve safety for residents who walk and bike these neighborhoods through the installation of sidewalks, bike lanes, enhanced pedestrian crossings and improved connections to transit stops. We support ACHD's efforts to advance the proposed project and recognize the positive impact it will have on the community by providing residents better access to jobs, education, health care, shopping, parks, recreation and public transportation.

Of particular interest to Ada County are the improved bike and pedestrian connections which are proposed to its Expo Idaho property, which provides many recreational and entertainment opportunities to the community, including Lady Bird Park, the Boise River Greenbelt, Memorial Stadium and the Western Idaho Fair.

Ada County strongly supports this project and is excited to participate in the planning process with ACHD.

Respectfully,

ADA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Handwritten signature of Rod Beck in black ink.
Rod Beck, Commissioner

Handwritten signature of Ryan Davidson in black ink.
Ryan Davidson, Commissioner

Handwritten signature of Kendra Kenyon in black ink.
Kendra Kenyon, Commissioner

cc: Richard Beck, Director, Development Services
Leon Letson, Community Planning Manager, Development Services



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

MAYOR: Lauren McLean

28 March 2022

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

Re: Support for the Ada County Highway District Access to Opportunity Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

City of Boise is pleased to write in support of Ada County Highway District's (ACHD) request for grant funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation R.A.I.S.E. program to further develop and design the Access to Opportunity Project. We applaud ACHD's efforts to advance the proposed project and recognize the positive impact it will have on a Historically Disadvantaged Community. The project will provide the community with connectivity and access to jobs, food, shopping, parks and recreation, education, health care, transit and overall access to opportunity that has not existed previously.

City of Boise is the largest municipality in ACHD's jurisdiction. ACHD's commitment advancing projects like those in this application helps achieve our goal of being a city for everyone. Ensuring access to economic and recreational opportunity while promoting modes of transportation that support bold climate action goals are an essential part of a prosperous future for our city. Multiple projects in this application complement work City of Boise is planning through our Pathways Masterplan, connecting on-street bike infrastructure to off-street pathways.

We strongly support this project and are excited to participate in the planning process with ACHD.

Sincerely,

Lauren McLean
Mayor
City of Boise



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

6015 Glenwood Street · Garden City, Idaho 83714
Phone 208/472-2900 · Fax 208/472-2998

March 8, 2022

Secretary 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

Re: Raise Grant Letter of Support for the Ada County Highway District Access to Opportunity Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

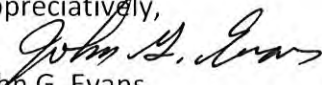
On behalf of Garden City, please accept this letter of support for the Ada County Highway District Access to Opportunity Project.

ACHD has identified 12 active transportation projects that staff have completed preliminary scoping and are also listed in ACHD's FY2022-2026 Integrated Five-Year Work Plan. Six of the projects are identified in Garden City in a portion of the community that is historically disadvantaged. Garden City supports the Ada County Highway District and their projects to aid active transportation and remove long-standing barriers for residents who walk, bike, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions of those within this community.

Benefits include creating safe sidewalks that meet American with Disabilities Act standards, enhancing pedestrian crosswalks where they do not currently exist, creating connections to transit routes, and access to schools and parks. These improvements will enhance bike lanes for safe, low-stress travel and provide the ability for the public to safely enjoy their journey to healthcare, grocery, education, and the Boise River Greenbelt transportation network.

The city of Garden City supports improvements to public access in Ada County and safety for our community. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Jenah Thornborrow at jthorn@gardencityidaho.org.

Appreciatively,


John G. Evans
Mayor



Working together to plan for the future

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

RE: RAISE 2022 Grant Request: Access to Opportunity Project, Cities of Garden City and Boise, Idaho

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS), the metropolitan planning organization for Ada and Canyon Counties, Idaho, supports the Ada County Highway District's (ACHD's) application for a US Department of Transportation RAISE grant for the Access to Opportunity Project in the Cities of Garden City and Boise, Idaho.

The State of Idaho has one of the fastest growing populations in the nation, and Ada County has been greatly impacted by exponential growth in the last ten years. The neighborhoods in this project include historically disadvantaged communities that have experienced long-standing transportation barriers.

The Access to Opportunity project will provide active transportation improvements to remove barriers for people who rely on walking or riding bicycles as their primary mode of transportation. The improvements will make traveling by these modes safer by enhancing crosswalks and bringing older sidewalks in the area up to Americans with Disabilities Act standards. Once constructed, access to jobs, healthcare, essential services, and recreation will be safer and more accessible for these residents. ACHD plans include 12 separate projects that have already been through preliminary scoping and are awaiting funding for design and environmental work.

These infrastructure improvements are aligned with the goals of the regional long-range transportation plan, *Communities in Motion 2040 2.0*, including:

- Enhance the transportation system to improve accessibility and connectivity to jobs, schools, and services; allow the efficient movement of people and goods; and ensure the reliability of travel by all modes considering social, economic, and environmental elements (Goal 1.1).
- Improve safety and security for all transportation modes and users (Goal 1.2).
- Develop a transportation system with high connectivity that preserves capacity of the regional system and encourages walk and bike trips (Goal 1.4).
- Coordinate local land use planning, transportation planning, and development to maximize the use of existing infrastructure, increase the effectiveness of

investment, and retain or enhance the vitality of the local community (Goal 2.1).

- Promote a transportation system and land use patterns that enhance public health, protect the environment, and improve the quality of life (Goal 5.1).

COMPASS supports this \$5.6 million request, which will result in improved connectivity, safety, and livability in the Cities of Garden City and Boise. Your serious consideration of this grant request is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Matthew J. Stoll
Executive Director

c: Director Bruce Wong, Ada County Highway District
Tom Ferch, Transportation Funding Coordinator, Ada County Highway District



Garden City Urban Renewal Agency

6015 Glenwood Street • Garden City, Idaho 83714
Phone 208-472-2900 • Fax 208-472-2996

March 25, 2022

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

Re: Support for the Ada County Highway District Access to Opportunity Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Garden City Urban Renewal Agency is pleased to write in support of Ada County Highway District's (ACHD) request for grant funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation R.A.I.S.E. program to further develop and design the Access to Opportunity Project. We applaud ACHD's efforts to advance the proposed project and recognize the positive impact it will have on a Historically Disadvantaged Community. The project will provide the community with connectivity and access to jobs, food, shopping, parks and recreation, education, health care, transit and overall access to opportunity that has not existed.

Three of the planned projects lie within our East River Front Urban Renewal District. The additional funding provided by the RAISE Transportation Planning Grant will significantly enhance our urban renewal efforts to improve the six of the targeted criteria in this historically disadvantaged area of Garden City, Idaho.

We strongly support this project and are pleased to participate in the planning process with ACHD.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Souza", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Jeff Souza
Chair
Garden City Urban Renewal Agency



March 10, 2022

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

Re: Support for the Ada County Highway District Access to Opportunity Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Ada County Highway District Americans with Disabilities Act Advisory Committee is pleased to write in support of Ada County Highway District's (ACHD) request for grant funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation R.A.I.S.E. program to further develop and design the Access to Opportunity Project. We applaud ACHD's efforts to advance the proposed project and recognize the positive impact it will have on a Historically Disadvantaged Community. The project will provide the community with connectivity and access to jobs, food, shopping, parks and recreation, education, health care, transit and overall access to opportunity that has not existed.

The ACHD ADA Advisory Committee is largely comprised of individuals who are blind or low vision, are deaf or hard of hearing, and who use mobility devices, such as wheelchairs. We advise ACHD leadership on policy, plans, and projects to ensure compliance with the ADA and that public infrastructure (roads, sidewalks, crossings, etc.) meets the needs of community members with disabilities across the lifespan.

We strongly support this project and are excited to participate in the planning process with ACHD.

Sincerely,



Jeremy M. Maxand
Committee Chair

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
Office of the US Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington D.C. 20590

RE: Letter of Support for RAISE Grant for Chinden State Highway (US 20/26) in Garden City, Idaho

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

This letter on behalf of the Ada County Highway District's Pedestrian Advisory Group is in support of the RAISE grant for Chinden Boulevard (US Hwy 20/26) in Garden City, ID. Our group serves ACHD in an advisory role on pedestrian safety, access, and other issues.

The need for basic pedestrian infrastructure on Chinden Boulevard is essential, but currently lacking. The boulevard has been neglected from a pedestrian standpoint for a long time, and lacks sidewalks on both sides of the road and safe crossings to and from residential areas and essential services like groceries and places of employment.

As it stands now, pedestrians must sacrifice their own safety when they traverse Chinden. But it doesn't need to be this way – with the improvements that the RAISE grant would bring, the boulevard would be safer for the people who live along it, improve equity for those who get around the city on foot, and make the area more sustainable.

Thank you for your consideration, and we are excited at the changes this grant would bring.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Jaszewski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Joe Jaszewski
ACHD Pedestrian Advisory Group representative

March 9, 2022

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

Re: Support for the Ada County Highway District Access to Opportunity Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Bicycle Advisory Committee at the Ada County Highway District is pleased to write in support of Ada County Highway District's (ACHD) request for grant funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation R.A.I.S.E. program to further develop and design the Access to Opportunity Project. We applaud ACHD's efforts to advance the proposed project and recognize the positive impact it will have on a Historically Disadvantaged Community. The project will provide the community with connectivity and access to jobs, food, shopping, parks and recreation, education, health care, transit and overall access to opportunity that has not existed.

12 members of the all volunteer committee represent a diverse group of bicyclists and are in full support of this grant request. The areas ACHD is focusing on are important to the residents we represent and we're excited to see ACHD continue to move toward making sure these areas are given the attention they desperately need.

We strongly support this project and are excited to participate in the planning process with ACHD.

Sincerely,



Lisa Brady
Chair
ACHD Bicycle Advisory Committee



The Independent School District of Boise City

Boundaries, Transportation & Traffic Safety (208) 854-4167
8169 West Victory Road FAX (208) 854-4011
Boise, ID 83709 transportation@boiseschools.org

April 4, 2022

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

RE: Support for the Ada County Highway District Access to Opportunity Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Boise School District is pleased to write in support of Ada County Highway District's (ACHD) request for grant funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation R.A.I.S.E. program to further develop and design the Access to Opportunity Project. We applaud ACHD's efforts to advance the proposed project and recognize the positive impact it will have on a Historically Disadvantaged Community. The project will provide the community with connectivity and access to jobs, food, shopping, parks and recreation, education, health care, transit and overall access to opportunity that has not existed.

We have partnered with ACHD for many years to improve Safe Routes to School throughout Boise and Garden City. ACHD's dedication to improving our roadways and removing barriers for students, especially those in historically disadvantaged communities, is crucial for students to access school. The area identified for this funding provides Safe Routes to School opportunities for some of our most vulnerable students.

We strongly support this project and are excited to participate in the planning process with ACHD.

Sincerely,

Lanette Daw
Supervisor, Transportation & Traffic Safety
Independent School District of Boise City #1

"Educating Today for a Better Tomorrow"

An Equal Opportunity Employer-Educator



March 25, 2022

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- Katie Riley
- Brad Stith
- Brian Wonderlich

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Colleen Braga

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

Re: Support for the Ada County Highway District Access to Opportunity Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Boys & Girls Clubs of Ada County is pleased to write in support of Ada County Highway District's (ACHD) request for grant funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation R.A.I.S.E. program to further develop and design the Access to Opportunity Project. We applaud ACHD's efforts to advance the proposed project and recognize the positive impact it will have on a Historically Disadvantaged Community. The project will provide the community with connectivity and access to jobs, food, shopping, parks and recreation, education, health care, transit and overall access to opportunity that has not existed.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Ada County has partnered with ACHD on a number of projects over the years in an effort to make our roads and pathways safer for kids and families in our community. We fully support of the projects being recommended as part the Access to Opportunity Project and are particularly eager to see the improvements identified for Ustick Road-43rd Street. With the heavy volume of traffic in this area, we believe these improvements as are critical in providing those who are walking or biking safe access to jobs, schools, the greenbelt and the Boys & Girls Club.

We strongly support this project and are excited to participate in the planning process with ACHD.

Sincerely,

Colleen Braga
Executive Director
Boys & Girls Clubs of Ada County
(208) 639-3161



Anser Charter School

March 17th, 2022

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

Re: Support for the Ada County Highway District Access to Opportunity Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Anser Public Charter School is pleased to write in support of Ada County Highway District's (ACHD) request for grant funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation R.A.I.S.E. program to further develop and design the Access to Opportunity Project. We applaud ACHD's efforts to advance the proposed project and recognize the positive impact it will have on a Historically Disadvantaged Community. The project will provide the community with connectivity and access to jobs, food, shopping, parks and recreation, education, health care, transit and overall access to opportunity that has not existed.

Anser Public Charter School is located in a neighborhood whose economically disadvantaged children can find difficult to navigate via bicycle or as a pedestrian. While there are excellent organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club, and a beautiful river-side biking path, the neighborhood lacks the safe connectivity to support children taking full advantage of these resources. The work proposed in ACHD's request for grant funding would increase safety and accessibility for many underserved children in our community.

We strongly support this project and are excited to participate in the planning process with ACHD.

Sincerely,

Heather Dennis, Organization Director, Anser Public Charter School



Friday, March 11, 2022

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

Re: Support for the Ada County Highway District Access to Opportunity Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Treasure Valley Cycling Alliance (TVCA) is pleased to write in support of Ada County Highway District's (ACHD) request for grant funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation R.A.I.S.E. program to further develop and design the Access to Opportunity Project. We applaud ACHD's efforts to advance the proposed project and recognize the positive impact it will have on a Historically Disadvantaged Community. The project will provide the community with connectivity and access to jobs, food, shopping, parks and recreation, education, health care, transit, and overall access to opportunity that has not existed.

The TVCA has collaborated for years with ACHD to create the best possible infrastructure for Ada County that reduces barriers and provides a low-stress option for all residents to bike throughout our community. One specific area of collaboration is our bike counting auditing program, where we capture empirical data on the frequency of bicycle use through the infrastructure. That data has been beneficial to decision-making and our advocacy to make our community more accessible to bicycling as an active form of transportation.

The focus of this project is a region of the community that has been neglected for far too long and is easily the most challenging region of Ada County to bike to and from due to natural barriers and the built environment. The multijurisdictional nature of the landholding adds additional challenges to navigate. Therefore, community engagement in planning and project selection will be essential through Neighborhood Associations, Parent Teaching Organizations, and Canal management groups. We hope to be an active member in this process due to its foreseen positive impact on the community.

We strongly support this project and are excited to participate in the planning process with ACHD.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Stefancic", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Michael Stefancic
Vice President
Treasure Valley Cycling Alliance

March 21, 2022

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

Re: Support for the Ada County Highway District Access to Opportunity Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Boise Central Foothills Neighborhood Association is pleased to write in support of Ada County Highway District's (ACHD) request for grant funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation R.A.I.S.E. program to further develop and design the Access to Opportunity Project. We applaud ACHD's efforts to advance the proposed project and recognize the positive impact it will have on a Historically Disadvantaged Community. The project will provide the community with connectivity and access to jobs, food, shopping, parks and recreation, education, health care, transit and overall access to opportunity that has not existed.

Although our neighborhood is not in or adjacent to any of the proposed impact areas, this is a project for the benefit of all of Boise. Boise, and the whole country, has needed to improve this kind of access. We are thankful for the opportunity this will provide here.

We strongly support this project and are excited to participate in the planning process with ACHD.

Sincerely,

Joanie Fauci
President
Central Foothills Neighborhood Association



factsidaho.org

5700 East Franklin Rd., Suite 200
Nampa, Idaho 83687
208-466-9272

Officers:
President: Wm. F. Gigray, III
Vice President: Gary Segers
Secretary: Karen Danley
Treasurer: Philip A. Peterson

March 24, 2022

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
Office of the US Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the Ada County Highway District Access to Opportunity Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I have been authorized by the Board of Directors of The Foundation For Ada/Canyon Trails Systems, Inc. ("FACTS") to submit this letter in support of the Ada County Highway District's (ACHD) application for grant funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation R.A.I.S.E. program to further develop and design their "Access to Opportunity Project" involving proposed bike and pedestrian and crossing projects (the "ACHD Project").

FACTS enthusiastically supports the ACHD Project application because it addresses twelve (12) active transportation projects within the City of Boise and the City of Garden City, that meet the qualifications, as established by FHWA, of a "Historically Disadvantaged Community." Specifically, the ACHD Project targets older commercial and residential areas of Garden City; and what is known as the Bench, in the City of Boise. These target areas, due to the period during which they were developed, are not pedestrian friendly and are in need of the subject ACHD Project. The ACHD Project will provide connectivity and access to jobs, food, shopping, parks, education, healthcare, transit, and pedestrian pathway systems within Boise, Garden City and to other neighboring communities in the Boise Metropolitan Area.

Who we are: FACTS is an Idaho non-profit corporation recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) charitable and educational corporation. It has a primary mission of facilitating the development of the greenway and pedestrian pathway systems throughout Ada and Canyon Counties in Idaho. As stated in its First Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation as it seeks:

FACTS

Connecting
People with
Pathways

The **F**oundation for **A**da / **C**anyon **T**rail **S**ystems

factsidaho.org

5700 East Franklin Rd., Suite 200
Nampa, Idaho 83687
208-466-9272

Officers:

<i>President:</i>	Wm. F. Gigray, III
<i>Vice President:</i>	Gary Segers
<i>Secretary:</i>	Karen Danley
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Philip A. Peterson

- 1) *provide and/or encourage provisions for non-motorized use trail systems for the benefit of the general public;*
- 2) *work with cities, counties, highway districts, state and federal agencies and other public or private agencies and other public or private entities to expand and improve existing trail systems, to acquire sites for needed future trail systems for multiple use;*
- 3) *(a) encourage the creation, adoption, and development of regulations by governmental agencies, to ensure that adequate sites will be provided for trail systems;...*

FACTS has been in existence since 1987 and has ever since worked with governmental agencies and private entities in the planning and development of pathway systems. The FACTS Board of Directors consists of volunteers and agency representatives from the various communities in Ada and Canyon counties. Our Foundation works closely with The Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) which is the single designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for all urbanized areas within southwest Idaho.

In summary: The ACHD Project application positively contributes to the modernization of ACHD's targeted pedestrian infrastructure by improving pedestrian safety within Historically Disadvantaged Community areas of the Cities of Boise and Garden City and will improve interconnectivity with existing pedestrian transportation infrastructure outside of those areas.

Best regards,



Wm. F. Gigray, III
President of the Board
Foundation for Ada/Canyon Trail Systems, Inc.

Cc: FACTS Board of Directors
Tom Ferch Transportation Funding Coordinator ACHD



21 March 2022

Statement in Support of Ada County Highway District
 Access to Opportunity Project, Garden City
 2022 RAISE Transportation Planning Grant

Secretary Peter Paul M. 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:

I am writing give support to your favorable consideration of the ACHD Access to Opportunity project. As you are aware, the Treasure Valley of Idaho is experiencing extraordinary growth which puts strains on all systems and resources, including transportation and housing. As an affordable housing advocate and builder in Idaho with NeighborWorks Boise, I can affirm that the two are inextricably bound.

This RAISE grant would address issues of equity in establishing safe pathways of travel to/over/through the Historically Disadvantaged Communities where we work and live within Garden City, Idaho. These growth stresses mean projects further out from the urban centers will further strain existing infrastructure. Making our existing urban landscape more accessible to disadvantaged communities will benefit all as we make the built environment more conducive to walking, biking, and public transportation. As those options become more attractive and available, more concentrated development in the city core becomes more desirable as well, conserving resources of land, water, and infrastructure while reducing dependency on passenger vehicles, improving air quality as well as providing cost savings to residents.

The Active transportation projects proposed by ACHD remove barriers for people who walk and ride bicycles and help 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, food, recreation, and the Boise River Greenbelt transportation network. In addition,



3380 W AMERICANA TERRACE STE 120, BOISE, ID 83706
 (208) 343-4065 | NWBOISE.ORG



**BOISE**

these projects will explore private partnerships, environmentally friendly stormwater solutions, and innovative designs.

ACHD needs these federal RAISE funds to make upgrades to deteriorating systems, improve safety and accessibility and to make this important urban center more user friendly to residents who live there. Those essential upgrades will improve the lives of those who live and work in the area and in neighboring areas with far reaching impact as we strategically develop this rapidly growing urban center.

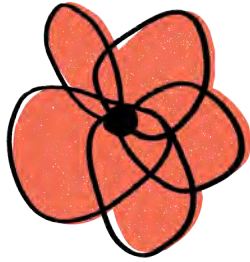
Sincerely,

Buddy L. Compher, CEO
NeighborWorks Boise



3380 W AMERICANA TERRACE STE 120, BOISE, ID 83706
(208) 343-4065 | NWBOISE.ORG





PARKWAY STATION

– GARDEN CITY –

[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. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

Bill Truax

Parkway Station LLC



[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.**

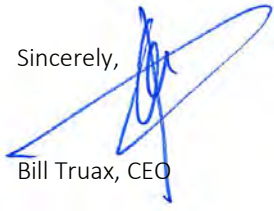
As a vested owner of various properties in Garden City impacted by this grant request, **we ask that the USDOT review this project favorably.**

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 faint, light blue circular watermark or background.

Bill Truax, CEO

Galena Equity Partners LLC

www.galenapartners.com



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

Re: Support for the Ada County Highway District Access to Opportunity Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Future Public School is pleased to write in support of Ada County Highway District's (ACHD) request for grant funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation R.A.I.S.E. program to further develop and design the Access to Opportunity Project. We applaud ACHD's efforts to advance the proposed project and recognize the positive impact it will have on a Historically Disadvantaged Community. The project will provide the community with connectivity and access to jobs, food, shopping, parks and recreation, education, health care, transit and overall access to opportunity that has not existed.

Future Public School currently serves over 400 students in grades K through 6. As a Title 1 school, we serve a diverse population of families, with over 50% of our children qualifying for free or reduced lunch, and approximately 20% of families have a home language other than English. Additionally, we provide special education services to over 15% of our students. Our mission and vision as school is to be a proof point as to the potential of all children.

Situated a short distance from both the Boise River Greenbelt and several major cross streets in Garden City, it is important that our students and their families have safe and improved routes to access their homes, local businesses, community schools (such as Future), and their workplaces. The ACHD proposed project plan would not only improve current transportation routes, but also provide additional access to more community members.

We *strongly* support this project and are excited to participate in the planning process with ACHD.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amanda Cox". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Amanda Cox
Executive Director and Principal
Future Public School



Governor Brad Little

State Capitol :: Boise, Idaho 83720
(208) 334-2100 :: gov.idaho.gov

April 7, 2022

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

RE: RAISE 2022 Grant Request: Access to Opportunity Project, Cities of Garden City and Boise, Idaho

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Please accept this letter in support of the Ada County Highway District's (ACHD) application for a U.S. Department of Transportation RAISE grant for the Access to Opportunity Project in the cities of Garden City and Boise, Idaho.

The neighborhoods served by the Access to Opportunity Project are historically underserved. As the population in the State of Idaho continues to grow at record pace, residents of these types of neighborhoods struggle to have the same opportunities as those of newer subdivisions, which incorporate more robust infrastructure than was typically included when these older neighborhoods were originally developed.

The project will provide residents, many of whom are low-income, safe access to jobs, transit, basic necessities, and recreation in nearby neighborhoods as well as the greater Boise area.

I support this project and the benefits the project will bring, including creating safer transportation options and new opportunities for the residents of these neighborhoods. Your consideration of this grant request is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Brad Little', written in a cursive style.

Brad Little
Governor of Idaho

c: Director Bruce Wong, Ada County Highway District
Tom Ferch, Transportation Funding Coordinator, Ada County Highway District



April 11, 2022

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
Office of the US Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington D.C. 20590

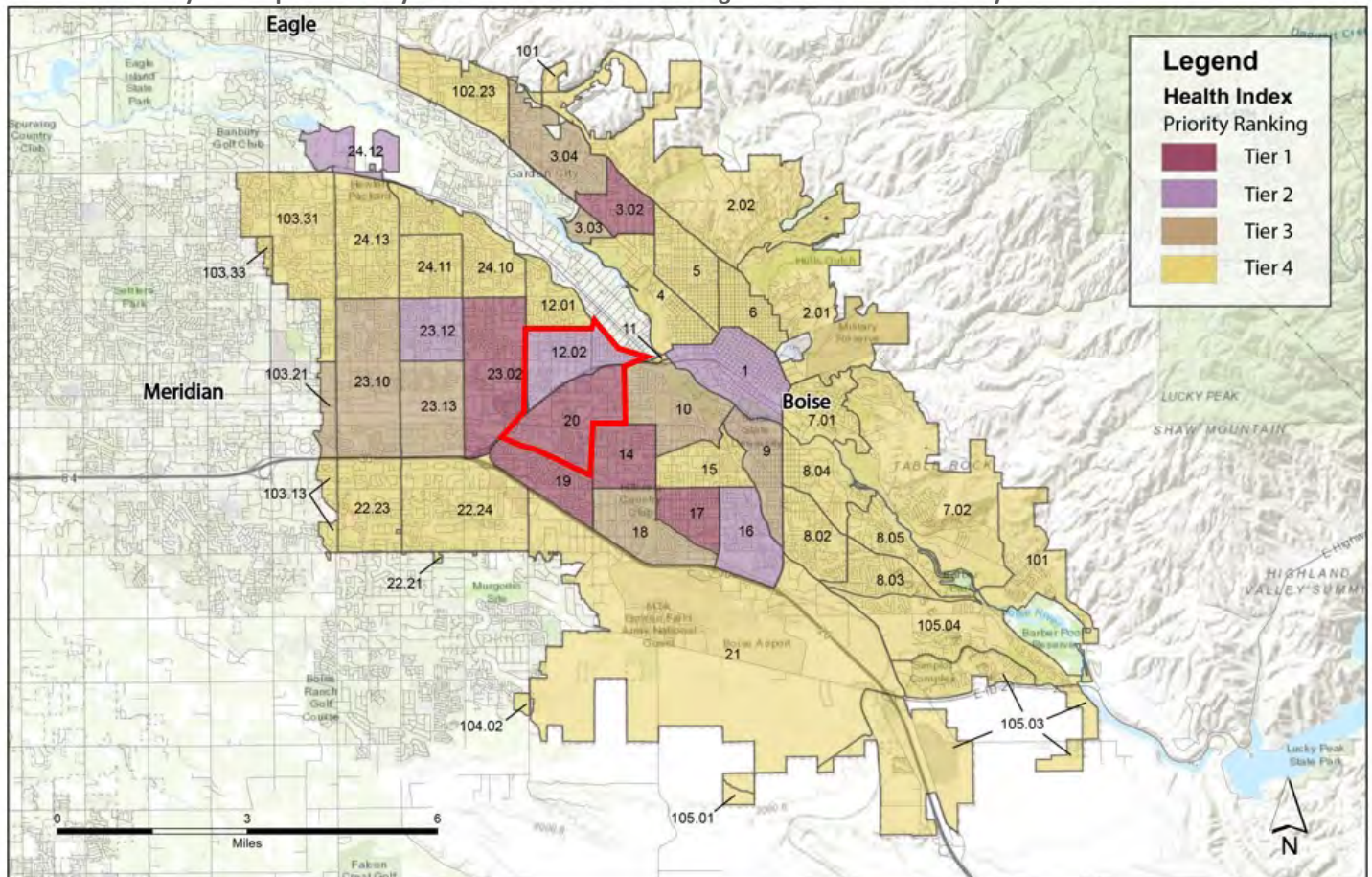
RE: Letter of Support for Ada County Highway District RAISE Grant in Boise & Garden City, Idaho

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The application for Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) funding by Ada County Highway District and its partners is one that myself and my company, Vitruvian Planning, fully support. We have been involved in transportation planning and design in Garden City and Boise, Idaho, for two decades and have worked extensively in these two cities to make its streets safer and more sustainable.

The neighborhoods that are subject to this proposed project have health and transportation challenges beyond those identified by USDOT in its historically disadvantaged communities data. In 2020 our firm completed a Community Development Analysis for the City of Boise that was the first in our state to look at factors beyond housing access and affordability to understand the deeper issues related to housing, including access to health services, transportation, food, and other topics. In all, we mapped more than 50 different metrics and weighted them to determine the Census tracts within Boise that were determined to be the most “in need” of interventions, including sidewalks, safe street crossings, and disadvantaged populations. The map below shows the areas within Boise, outlined in red, that are the subject of ACHD’s application.

Boise Community Development Analysis: Tracts 12.02 & 20 Showing as Most “In Need” in City of Boise



More specifically, our Boise project utilized the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) PLACES data, which includes several Census tract-level metrics stemming from their Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance Survey. The tracts that are the subject of ACHD’s application in Boise, as well as Garden City, are among the most challenged in Boise when it comes to poor physical health. The image below shows the CDC’s data on physical inactivity, indicating the tracts that are the subject of ACHD’s application (outlined in red) are among the worst in terms of physical inactivity rates in Ada County, Idaho.

Further, CDC’s data shows these Census tracts have the worst rates in Ada County for the health factors identified in the table at right. These health outcomes are proven to be improved when people can safely and comfortably walk, bike, and take transit to access daily needs. The table indicates with an X where the tracts subject to ACHD’s RAISE grant request have conditions among the worst in Ada County.

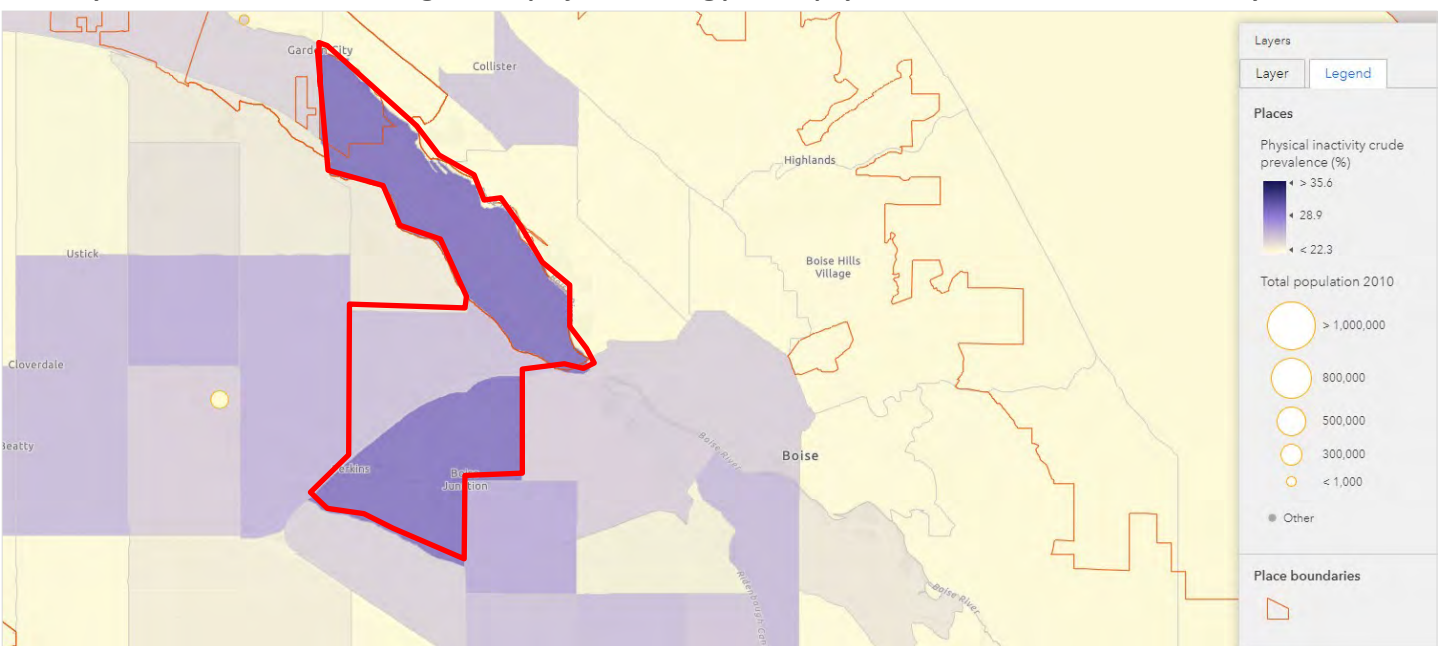
Health Outcomes	Garden City— Tract 11	Boise— Tract 12.02	Boise— Tract 20
High Blood Pressure	X	X	X
Cancer		X	
Diabetes	X		
Heart Disease	X		X
Obesity	X		X
COPD	X		X
Depression	X	X	X

In addition to unhealthy conditions related to physical activity, these areas also flag as some of the worst in our region when it comes to rates of asthma and COPD, which has been correlated to high rates of air pollution due to people living adjacent to busy highways. Studies show that kids who grow up next to major roadways have asthma rates similar to children who grow up in secondhand smoke households. Providing connections and safe crossings for people who walk, bike, and take transit will help reduce air pollution in these areas.

Equity & Safety: Beyond health, safety needs related to equity are the most prominent element that would be addressed in the funding of the ACHD RAISE grant request. Chinden Boulevard (US Highway 20-26), for which ACHD has identified several crossing upgrades and connecting sidewalks, is a National Highway System route where equity has not properly been addressed for many years by the Federal Highway Administration in its approval of projects along Chinden Boulevard.

In Idaho, 40% of pedestrian deaths occur on roadways managed and engineered by the Idaho Transportation Department; compared to ITD managing only 8% of Idaho’s roadway miles. Chinden represents everything the national studies by the National Transportation Safety Board, Governors Highway Safety Association, and Insurance Institute for Highway Safety have identified as the reasons behind our country’s massive increase in pedestrian death: Chinden

Poor Physical Health: Tracts containing ACHD’s projects showing poorest physical health conditions in Ada County, Idaho



lacks sidewalks west of 44th Street; Chinden lacks safe, frequent crossings throughout Garden City; and Chinden is designed to induce speeds and speeding from motorists that are unsafe for any road user. In 2019, our firm did an analysis for Garden City along Chinden. The table at right shows the alarming data we unearthed when looking at pedestrian fatality and crash rates for Garden City and compared them to Ada County as a whole. The people of Garden City who walk are killed by motorists at a rate 2.7 times higher than those who walk in all of Ada County. These Garden City pedestrians are hit by motorists at a rate 1.4 times higher than their fellow Ada County residents.

	Pedestrian	
	Fatality Rate	Crash Rate
Garden City	3.6	41.5
Ada County	1.3	33.8
Garden City Rate Compared to Ada Co.	2.7 x higher	1.4 x higher

Sources:
 ITD crash data, 1997-2015
 Census population estimates, 1997-2015

The images at the bottom of the first two pages of this letter showcase why this is the case along Chinden. Funding of ACHD’s application will help implement the necessary crossings of Chinden, link to other sidewalks on connecting streets within ACHD’s system, and hopefully spur a greater regional and local discussion over the need to have other agencies such as ITD add sidewalks along Chinden.

From an overall demographic standpoint, 15.2% (or nearly 1,800) of Garden City’s residents are disabled, according to the US Census 2019 5-year estimates. This is notably higher than Ada County as a whole, where 10.3% of its residents are disabled. One out of every 12 households in Garden City lacks access to a vehicle, compared to only one in every 27 households in Ada County lacking access to vehicle. Garden City households represent 7% of Ada County’s households without a vehicle despite Garden City having only 3% of the county’s households.

In summary, the Garden City application for RAISE funding is one that FHWA should view as vital to its goals for rebuilding American infrastructure through a lens of sustainability and equity. It’s the least FHWA can do for the people of Garden City, who have for too long been subject to the unsustainable and inequitable policies of our region, state, and federal transportation policies and design practices.

Sincerely,

Chris Danley
 Vitruvian Planning

Don Kostelec
 Vitruvian Planning

Left: A man in a wheelchair must use the two-way left turn lane of Chinden Boulevard in Garden City due to lack of sidewalks. Right: A woman must cross at an unprotected, unmarked crosswalk to access a food outlet at Chinden & 38th Street in Garden City, where ACHD proposes to build an protected, signalized crossing for residents to safely cross.





April 6, 2022

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

RE: Ada County (Idaho) Highway District RAISE application

Dear Mr. Secretary,

On behalf of the more than 600 member firms of the Idaho Associated General Contractors (AGC), I write in strong support of the request for grant funding submitted by the Ada County Highway District (ACHD). ACHD would utilize funding from the Department's RAISE program to further develop and design its Access to Opportunity Project.

All of us here at the Idaho AGC applaud ACHD's ongoing efforts to advance the proposed project and recognize the positive impact it will have on a historically disadvantaged community. The project will provide the community with connectivity and access to jobs, education, health care, parks and recreation, and other essential service.

Idaho AGC members stand ready to help construct the facilities necessary to complete this important work once funding is identified. We and our member firms have a long history of collaboration with ACHD and believe them to be a sound trustee of public funds.

We strongly support this project and are excited to participate in the planning process and construction phase of this important work.

Sincerely,

Wayne L. Hammon
CEO, Idaho AGC



April 4, 2022

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

Re: Support for the Ada County Highway District Access to Opportunity Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Idaho Office for Refugees is pleased to write in support of Ada County Highway District's (ACHD) request for grant funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation R.A.I.S.E. program to further develop and design the Access to Opportunity Project. We applaud ACHD's efforts to advance the proposed project and recognize the positive impact it will have on a Historically Disadvantaged Community. The project will provide the community with connectivity and access to jobs, food, shopping, parks and recreation, education, health care, transit and overall access to opportunity that has not existed.

Our office works closely with the Ada County Highway District through the Neighbors United refugee collaborative in the Boise area. The collaborative brings together dozens of organizations seeking to improve access and services for vulnerable Idahoans, specifically those who recently resettled through the refugee program.

When someone first resettles in Idaho, they are often dependent on public transportation and walking and bike pathways to get around. Increasing safe route options is crucial to support people who rely on biking and walking to get to work, to grocery stores, to doctor's appointments, to community events and more.

We strongly support this project and are excited to participate in the planning process with ACHD.

Sincerely,

Tara Wolfson
Director & State Refugee Coordinator
Idaho Office for Refugees



April 4, 2022

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

Re: Support for the Ada County Highway District Access to Opportunity Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Valley Regional Transit (VRT) is pleased to write in support of Ada County Highway District's (ACHD) request for grant funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation R.A.I.S.E. program to further develop and design the Access to Opportunity Project. VRT and ACHD work together to bring multi-modal transportation solutions to the residents of Ada County. This project will advance multi-modal planning within a Historically Disadvantaged Community, preparing for capital projects that will connect people to jobs, food, shopping, parks and recreation, education, health care and transit.

Specifically, VRT and ACHD have been working together to improve non-motorized infrastructure along Fairview Avenue and crossing Chinden Boulevard. The planning and design work on Fairview will compliment VRT's efforts to convert Fairview into a premium transit corridor. The design work to improve pedestrian crossings across Chinden will make the transit service on Chinden more useful to the rapidly growing community of Garden City.

We strongly support this project and are excited to participate in the planning process with ACHD.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelli Badesheim".

Kelli Badesheim
Executive Director
Valley Regional Transit



May 18, 2022

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

Re: Support for the Ada County Highway District Access to Opportunity Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Ada county Highway District (ACHD) has requested grant funding through R.A.I.S.E. for the design and development of the Access to Opportunity Project. The Boise Metro Chamber fully endorses their application to improve one of our communities Historically Disadvantaged Communities. The economic impacts of this project will be significant to the area and improve the lives of our residents.

ACHD has a track record of successfully completing projects of this nature. The chamber works hand-in-hand with ACHD whenever we can to improve the business climate in the Boise metro area. Their proposed project will lead to improved economic vitality in our area.

ACHD is a good steward of public dollars and will be a sterling partner to the mission of The U.S. Department of Transportation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jeremy Field'.

Jeremy Field
Director of Government Affairs
Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce