



## 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