



factsidaho.org

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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

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- 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