



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

