

The CHATT: Linking South Chattanooga

FY 24 Letters of Support

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**STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE
SUITE 700, JAMES K. POLK BUILDING
505 DEADERICK STREET
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-1402
(615) 741-2848

BUTCH ELEY
DEPUTY GOVERNOR &
COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORTATION

BILL LEE
GOVERNOR

January 18, 2024

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

RE: Chattanooga, Tennessee's "The CHATT: Relinking Chattanooga's Southside"
2024 RAISE Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing in support of the RAISE grant application entitled "The CHATT: Relinking Chattanooga's Southside," which is the result of a collaboration between the City of Chattanooga, the Trust for Public Land, and other local stakeholders.

This urban trail project, in storied lower-income communities of color on the southside of Chattanooga, will improve access to transit, jobs, public resources, recreational amenities, and opportunities of economic mobility. Proposed as the first major neighborhood link to the broadly successful Tennessee RiverPark and its Riverwalk trail system, this project will tie together communities separated by geography and infrastructure, greatly advancing mobility and creating economic opportunity in communities negatively impacted by disinvestment, contamination, and neglect.

This project represents a major investment in transportation infrastructure that will enhance safety and improve multimodal access in an Area of Persistent Poverty. It will greatly enhance access to opportunities for historically underserved communities, create an equitable transportation system that works for everyone, and progresses a more environmentally conscious network that enhances the safety of non-motorized users.

This project will deliver healthy, resilient, and integrated transportation options for residents and visitors of the southside of Chattanooga and will serve the City of Chattanooga and its residents for many years to come. The goals of this project align with TDOT's mission to deliver a safe and reliable transportation system that supports economic growth and quality of life for all Tennesseans.

I am confident that this project firmly aligns with the values and goals of the RAISE Grant Program and I greatly thank you for your consideration of this grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'How H. Eley'.

Howard H. Eley
Commissioner of Transportation



Chattanooga Council

1000 Lindsay Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402

RAQUETTA DOTLEY
Councilwoman, District 7

Phone: (423) 643-7180
Fax: (423) 643-7199

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

RE: FY2024 RAISE Grant Application – The CHATT:

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am pleased to strongly support the RAISE grant application “The CHATT: Linking South Chattanooga,” which is the result of a collaboration between the City of Chattanooga, the Trust for Public Land, and other local stakeholders.

This urban trail project, in storied lower-income communities of color on the southside of Chattanooga, will improve access to transit, jobs, public resources, recreational amenities, and opportunities of economic mobility. Proposed as the first major neighborhood link to the broadly successful Chattanooga Riverwalk, this project will tie together communities separated by geography and infrastructure, greatly advancing mobility and creating economic opportunity in communities negatively impacted by disinvestment, contamination and neglect.

As the City Council representative for this area, The CHATT: Linking South Chattanooga will bring much needed investment to generationally overlooked communities. This is a pivotal start to being a more economically inclusive society.

By supporting these efforts, USDOT can showcase a project closely aligned with the Biden Administration's objectives, such as enhancing access to opportunities for historically underserved communities, creating an equitable transportation system that works for everyone, and progressing to a more environmentally conscience network that prioritizes non-motorized users. This project will deliver healthy, climate-friendly, resilient, and integrated transportation options for residents and visitors of the southside of Chattanooga. It will serve the City of Chattanooga and its residents for many years to come.

Thank you for considering our application for RAISE Program funding.

Sincerely,

Raquetta Dotley
Chattanooga City Council Chair



Chattanooga-Hamilton County
Regional Planning Agency

Chattanooga-Hamilton County/North Georgia
Transportation Planning Organization
(TPO)

1250 Market Street, Suite 2000
Chattanooga, TN 37402

www.chcrpa.org
(423) 643-5900

23 January 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Chattanooga-Hamilton County/North Georgia Transportation Planning Organization strongly supports the City of Chattanooga's 2024 RAISE grant application to provide funding for a greenway to create a connection between the Alton Park and Crabtree Farms/East Lake neighborhoods. This project is the result of many years of sustained collaboration between the City of Chattanooga, the Trust for Public Land, and other local stakeholders.

This urban trail project, in storied lower-income communities of color on the southside of Chattanooga, will improve access to transit, jobs, public resources, recreational amenities, and opportunities of economic mobility. Proposed as the first major neighborhood link to the broadly successful Tennessee Riverpark and its Riverwalk trail system, this project will tie together communities separated by geography and infrastructure, greatly advancing mobility and creating economic opportunity in communities negatively impacted by disinvestment, contamination and neglect.

This project represents a major investment in transportation infrastructure that will enhance safety and improve multimodal access in an Area of Persistent Poverty. These goals align with the TPO's mission to plan for a safe, accessible multimodal transportation network in the Greater Chattanooga region. By supporting these efforts, USDOT can showcase a project that enhances access to opportunities for historically underserved communities, creates an equitable transportation system that works for everyone, and advances a more environmentally conscious network that enhances the safety of non-motorized users.

This project will deliver healthy, climate-friendly, resilient, and integrated transportation options for residents and visitors and will serve the city and its residents for many years to come. Thank you for considering this application for RAISE Program funding.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd E. Leamon", is written over a faint yellow geometric pattern.

Todd E. Leamon
Executive Board Chair
Chattanooga-Hamilton County/North Georgia Transportation Planning Organization

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



RE: FY2024 RAISE Grant Application – The CHATT: Linking South Chattanooga

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

EPB Chattanooga strongly supports the RAISE grant application "The CHATT: Linking South Chattanooga," which is the result of a collaboration between the City of Chattanooga, the Trust for Public Land, and other local stakeholders. This urban trail project, in storied lower-income communities of color on the south side of Chattanooga, will improve access to transit, jobs, public resources, recreational amenities, and economic mobility opportunities.

The proposed trail joins together communities separated by geography and infrastructure, greatly advancing mobility and creating economic opportunity in communities negatively impacted by disinvestment, contamination, and neglect.

EPB investments in technological mobility is transforming how this community relates to one another and the CHATT brings the physical infrastructure compliment to this work. This network of parks and pathways has become an economic driver for our region. I applaud the City of Chattanooga's efforts to extend this transformation into neighborhoods historically isolated from economic growth.

By supporting these efforts, USDOT can showcase a project enhancing access to opportunities for historically underserved communities, creating an equitable transportation system that works for everyone, and progressing to a more environmentally conscious network that prioritizes non-motorized users. This project will deliver healthy, climate-friendly, resilient, and integrated transportation options for residents and visitors of the southside of Chattanooga. It will serve the City of Chattanooga and its residents for many years to come.

Thank you for considering Chattanooga's application for RAISE Program funding.

Sincerely

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

Director Residential Energy and Environmental Solutions
EPB Chattanooga

PO Box 182255
Chattanooga, Tennessee
37422-7255



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

RE: FY2024 RAISE Grant Application – The CHATT: Linking South Chattanooga

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As Parks and Recreation Director for Hamilton County, I strongly support the RAISE grant application "The CHATT: Linking South Chattanooga," which is the result of a collaboration between the City of Chattanooga, the Trust for Public Land, and other local stakeholders.

This urban trail project, in storied lower-income communities of color on the southside of Chattanooga, will improve access to transit, jobs, public resources, recreational amenities, and opportunities of economic mobility.

The proposed trail joins together communities separated by geography and infrastructure, greatly advancing mobility and creating economic opportunity in communities negatively impacted by disinvestment, contamination and neglect.

Hamilton County's investment in the Tennessee RiverPark has transformed how this community relates to its natural and cultural heritage. This network of parks and pathways has become an economic driver for our region, and I applaud the City of Chattanooga's efforts to extend and connect this system into neighborhoods historically isolated from economic growth.

By supporting these efforts, USDOT can showcase a project enhancing access to opportunities for historically underserved communities, creating an equitable transportation system that works for everyone, and progressing to a more environmentally conscience network that prioritizes non-motorized users. This project will deliver healthy, climate-friendly, resilient, and integrated transportation options for residents and visitors of the southside of Chattanooga. It will serve the City of Chattanooga and its residents for many years to come.

Thank you for considering Chattanooga's application for RAISE Program funding.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Folz".

Matt Folz
Parks and Recreation Director
Hamilton County



**TRUST FOR
PUBLIC
LAND™**

Noel Durant
PO 3240
Chattanooga, TN
37404
tpl.org

February 27, 2024

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

FY24 Support for The CHATT: Linking South Chattanooga RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to express my support for the City of Chattanooga's RAISE grant application being submitted for the CHATT: Linking South Chattanooga, with the backing of Trust for Public Land (TPL). TPL is a national non-profit organization that works to connect everyone to the outdoors. For the last nine years, we have worked closely with the City of Chattanooga to bring to life the CHATT Vision, raising and deploying \$2 million in private funding for this effort, from acquiring rail infrastructure for public access to engaging residents and supporting community-based organizations in their aligning work.

The CHATT will be a 2.62-mile multimodal infrastructure project that will transform South Chattanooga, using transportation infrastructure to improve public health, enhance mobility, and promote equitable economic development in one of Chattanooga's highest-need areas.

A RAISE grant award will provide essential funding to proactively and intentionally engage multiple historically disadvantaged communities in the design and development of the trail. This construction project will build on a legacy of the equity-driven process of participatory design, holistic engagement, and neighborhood stewardship. By partnering with the Chattanooga community and prioritizing the communities that have been the most disconnected, environmentally burdened, and historically underserved, this grant will support the comprehensive revitalization of the entire area.

I encourage the U.S. DOT to support this project and help the City of Chattanooga and our communities have a healthier, more connected, and more equitable future.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Noel Durant'.

Noel Durant
Tennessee State Director
Trust for Public Land

South Chattanooga



Community Association

February 19, 2024

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

RE: FY2024 RAISE Grant Application – The CHATT: Linking Chattanooga’s Southside

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As service, education, and civic leaders of the South Chattanooga Community Association, we whole-heartedly support the RAISE grant application “The CHATT: Linking Chattanooga’s Southside.” This application is a collaboration between the City of Chattanooga, Trust for Public Land, and other local stakeholders.

The first major neighborhood link to the broadly successful Chattanooga Riverwalk, this urban trail project will tie together communities separated by geography and infrastructure; greatly advancing mobility and creating economic opportunity in areas negatively impacted by disinvestment, contamination, and neglect.

The proposed trail extension will connect Southside Community Park, in the historic African American community of Alton Park; to Crabtree Farms in the Clifton Hills neighborhood, with its rapidly growing Latino population; across a bustling Rossville Boulevard; to Clifton Hills Elementary. It will run alongside a buried landfill and across Chattanooga Creek, a former Federal SuperFund site. It will serve as a safe walk, linear park, and science laboratory for students attending Clifton Hills Elementary and the newly renovated Chattanooga Charter School of Excellence High School, which is adjacent to the trail.

More important, this greenway will connect unemployed and underemployed South Chattanooga residents to the Riverwalk; a new Chattanooga Lookouts Baseball Stadium; and a 120-acre former foundry site, poised for significant investments in commercial, retail, housing, recreation, entertainment, and multimodal transportation development. It will increase residents’ access to livable-wage jobs, public resources, attractions, and opportunities for improved health and economic mobility.

By supporting these efforts, USDOT can showcase a project closely aligned with the Biden Administration's objectives, such as enhancing access to opportunities for historically underserved communities, creating an equitable transportation system that works for everyone, and progressing to a more environmentally conscience network that prioritizes non-motorized users. This project will deliver healthy, climate-friendly, resilient, and integrated transportation options for residents and visitors of the southside of Chattanooga. It will serve the City of Chattanooga and its residents for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Damien J. Vinson

Captain Damien Vinson

*Community Outreach & Recruitment Coordinator, Chattanooga Fire Department
President, South Chattanooga Community Association*

Ted Griffin

Ted Griffin

*COO & Co-Founder, Chattanooga Charter School of Excellence
Vice President, South Chattanooga Community Association*

R. Dotley

Raquetta Dotley

*Chairwoman and District 7 Representative, Chattanooga City Council
Treasurer, South Chattanooga Community Association*



Perimeter Properties, LLC

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

RE: FY2024 RAISE Grant Application – The CHATT: Linking South Chattanooga

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As the President of Perimeter Properties, a leading landowner in the South Broad District, I strongly support Chattanooga's application for the RAISE Discretionary Funding Program. "The CHATT: Linking South Chattanooga" is the collaborative vision of the City of Chattanooga, the Trust for Public Land, neighborhoods, and other local stakeholders in our community. If completed, the CHATT will connect the South Broad District of Chattanooga to the rest of the city through 2.62 miles of new urban trail.

For generations, disinvestment, contamination, and neglect have been the status quo for the communities of color in the South Broad District. The CHATT will invest in these communities by improving access to employment, recreation, education, public transit, and other public resources. The trail will also tie together formerly fragmented communities that have long been separated by geography and infrastructure. A unique opportunity for the South Broad District, the CHATT will allow historically overlooked neighborhoods to join in the economic advancement and cultural rebirth that the rest of Chattanooga is experiencing.

Because of its position alongside the I-24, the South Broad District is the western gateway to Chattanooga. My company is redeveloping the U.S. Pipe site (a landmark of South Broad) that sits immediately east of I-24 and west of the rest of the South Broad District. Over the next few years and in close consultation with local leaders, community groups, and other stakeholders, the dilapidated U.S. Pipe site will be reborn into a true work-live-play space that is walkable and accessible to all. The CHATT proposal is a compelling opportunity that aligns with our vision of a thriving South Chattanooga where quality jobs are just a walk or short bike ride from their neighborhoods to a vibrant addition to Chattanooga's economy.

By supporting our shared vision for a renewed South Broad District, USDOT has an opportunity to provide historically underserved communities access to economic opportunities throughout our city via a safe, accessible, and environmentally friendly transportation option for non-motorized users. The CHATT will serve the City of Chattanooga and its residents for many years to come. It could also be yet another example of the positive impact that USDOT can have in communities like ours.

Thank you for considering Chattanooga's application for the RAISE Discretionary Funding Program.

Sincerely

Gary Chazen
President

Noel Durant, TN State Director, Trust for Public Land
Cc: Tim Kelly, City of Chattanooga Mayor

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

RE: FY2024 RAISE Grant Application -The CHATT: Linking South Chattanooga

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

JA Fielden Co and 33 Broad Companies strongly supports the RAISE grant application "The CHATT: Linking South Chattanooga," which is the result of a collaboration between the City of Chattanooga, the Trust for Public Land, and other local stakeholders.

This urban trail project, in storied lower-income communities of color on the southside of Chattanooga, will improve access to transit, jobs, public resources, recreational amenities, and opportunities of economic mobility. Proposed as the first major neighborhood link to the broadly successful Chattanooga Riverwalk, this project will tie together communities separated by geography and infrastructure, greatly advancing mobility and creating economic opportunity in communities negatively impacted by disinvestment, contamination and neglect.

JA Fielden Co and 33 Broad Companies has proudly partnered with the City of Chattanooga to redevelop a blighted vacant warehouse brownfield property into a future mixed use community. Our projects will create needed housing, dining, shopping and future employment options for existing Southside residents as well as new residents to Chattanooga's rapidly growing community. Our Company recognized an exciting opportunity for a public/private partnership with the City as well as the Trust for Public Land to design and build out a portion of the Alton Park Connector to assist in jump starting this great project. The continued build-out of the greenway connector is in keeping Chattanooga's long-term vision for connectivity to underserved communities like South Broad and Alton Park.

By supporting these efforts, USDOT can showcase a project closely aligned with the Biden Administration's objectives, such as enhancing access to opportunities for historically underserved communities, creating an equitable transportation system that works for everyone, and progressing to a more environmentally conscience network that prioritizes non-motorized users. This project will deliver healthy, climate-friendly, resilient, and integrated transportation options for residents and visitors of the southside of Chattanooga. It will serve the City of Chattanooga and its residents for many years to come.

Thank you for considering our application for RAISE Program funding.



JA Fielden Co Inc & 33 Broad LLC



LYNDHURST FOUNDATION

MACON C. TOLEDANO, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

mtoledano@lyndhurstfoundation.org

February 22, 2024

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

RE: FY2024 RAISE Grant Application - The CHATT: Linking South Chattanooga

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Lyndhurst Foundation is pleased to offer its ardent support for the RAISE grant application "The CHATT: Linking South Chattanooga," a collaborative undertaking of the City of Chattanooga, the Trust for Public Land, and other local stakeholders.

This urban trail project, located within storied lower-income communities of color on the southside of Chattanooga, will improve access to transit, jobs, public resources, recreational amenities, and opportunities for economic mobility. As the first major neighborhood link to the renowned Chattanooga Riverwalk, this project will knit together communities that are currently isolated by geography and infrastructure and will significantly enhance mobility and economic opportunity in communities that have long been negatively impacted by disinvestment, contamination, and neglect.

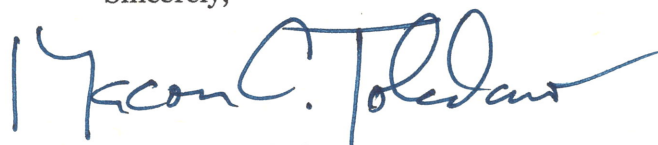
The Lyndhurst Foundation invests in collaborative endeavors that improve the well-being and vitality of people, places, and natural systems in the Chattanooga region through strategies that support equitable, inclusive, and sustainable outcomes. We strongly support the development of urban pathways and green infrastructure that enhance bicycle and pedestrian connectivity and augment access between our neighborhoods and the exceptional public assets that our city has to offer.

Having recently granted \$250,000 to the Trust for Public Land to advance its work on connectivity, accessible parks and green spaces, and urban pathways, we are particularly excited about The CHATT as an immediate opportunity to improve connectivity and access for underserved neighborhoods on our southside. The CHATT will provide new connections with surrounding neighborhoods and to broader shared assets like the Riverwalk while providing improved access to the outdoors, to green spaces, and to opportunities for exercise and healthy physical activity.

By supporting these efforts, USDOT can showcase a project closely aligned with the Biden Administration's objectives, such as enhancing access to opportunities for historically underserved communities, creating an equitable transportation system that works for everyone, and progressing to a more environmentally conscious network that prioritizes non-motorized users. This project will deliver healthy, climate-friendly, resilient, and integrated transportation options for residents and visitors of the southside of Chattanooga for years to come.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our application for RAISE Program funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Macon C. Toledano". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Macon C. Toledano

The Lyndhurst Foundation

February 16, 2024

BENWOOD

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

RE: FY2024 RAISE Grant Application -The CHATT: Linking Chattanooga's Southside

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Benwood Foundation strongly supports the RAISE grant application "The CHATT: Linking South Chattanooga," which is the result of a collaboration between the City of Chattanooga, the Trust for Public Land, and other local stakeholders.

This urban trail project, in storied lower-income communities of color on the southside of Chattanooga, will improve access to transit, jobs, public resources, recreational amenities, and opportunities of economic mobility. Proposed as the first major neighborhood link to the broadly successful Chattanooga Riverwalk, this project will tie together communities separated by geography and infrastructure, greatly advancing mobility and creating economic opportunity in communities negatively impacted by disinvestment, contamination and neglect.

The Benwood Foundation works in the neighborhoods connected by this project to support healthy thriving communities where residents can prosper, and made a \$750,000 grant to Trust for Public Land to acquire the Alton Park Connector rail corridor, a testament to this project's importance to our trustees. The barriers of Chattanooga Creek and Interstate 24 have isolated this significant portion of urban Chattanooga, and the proposed trail corridor will create a much-needed walking and biking corridor link across South Chattanooga.

By supporting these efforts, USDOT can showcase a project closely aligned with the Biden Administration's objectives, such as enhancing access to opportunities for historically underserved communities, creating an equitable transportation system that works for everyone, and progressing to a more environmentally conscience network that prioritizes non-motorized users. This project will deliver healthy, climate-friendly, resilient, and integrated transportation options for residents and visitors of the southside of Chattanooga. It will serve the City of Chattanooga and its residents for many years to come.

Thank you for considering our application for RAISE Program funding.



Jeff Pfitzer, Program Director



February 13, 2024

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

Board of Directors

- Jill Allen
- Kenyatta Ashford
- Richard Beeland
- Bo Bentley
- Delaina Elmz
- Kristy Graves
- Joel Houser
- John Hetzler
- Jazmine LeBlanc
- Papae Litchfield
- Viridiana Marin
- Lily Sanchez
- Amanda Stofan
- John Sweet
- Cole Webster

Emeritus

- Will Bailey
- McNair Bailey
- Mary Navarre Moore

Crabtree Farms
of Chattanooga

PO Box 2250
Chattanooga, TN
37409

P: 423-493-9155
F: 423-624-7439
crabtreefarms.org

RE: FY2024 RAISE Grant Application - The CHATT:

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

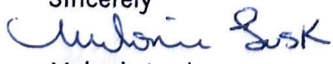
Crabtree Farms of Chattanooga strongly supports the RAISE grant application "The CHATT: Linking South Chattanooga," which is the result of a collaboration between the City of Chattanooga, the Trust for Public Land, and other local stakeholders.

This urban trail project, in storied lower-income communities of color on the southside of Chattanooga, will improve access to transit, jobs, public resources, recreational amenities, and opportunities of economic mobility. Proposed as the first major neighborhood link to the broadly successful Chattanooga Riverwalk, this project will tie together communities separated by geography and infrastructure, greatly advancing mobility and creating economic opportunity in communities negatively impacted by disinvestment, contamination and neglect.

Crabtree Farms of Chattanooga, a slated stop along the new connector trail, is a non-profit urban farm working alongside our neighbors to expand access to locally grown food, provide farm based educational opportunities, and cultivate community. The farm is open to the public 6-days a week and does not charge a fee for access to the public spaces (community garden, picnic areas) on the property. Crabtree Farms hopes to help build a future where food is a source of nourishment, connection, and empowerment for everyone and being along the connector trail will allow us to expand community education and further engage our neighbors, many of whom struggle with access to nutrient-rich food and welcoming, community green space.

By supporting these efforts, USDOT can showcase a project closely aligned with the Biden Administration's objectives, such as enhancing access to opportunities for historically underserved communities, creating an equitable transportation system that works for everyone, and progressing to a more environmentally conscious network that prioritizes non-motorized users. This project will deliver healthy, climate-friendly, resilient, and integrated transportation options for residents and visitors of the southside of Chattanooga. It will serve the City of Chattanooga and its residents for many years to come.

Thank you for considering our application for RAISE Program funding.

Sincerely

Melonie Lusk
Executive Director
Crabtree Farms of Chattanooga, Inc.



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

RE: FY2024 RAISE Grant Application – The CHATT:

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The BLVD Project strongly supports the RAISE grant application “The CHATT: Linking South Chattanooga,” which is the result of a collaboration between the City of Chattanooga, the Trust for Public Land, and other local stakeholders.

This urban trail project, in storied lower-income communities of color on the southside of Chattanooga, will improve access to transit, jobs, public resources, recreational amenities, and opportunities of economic mobility. Proposed as the first major neighborhood link to the broadly successful Chattanooga Riverwalk, this project will tie together communities separated by geography and infrastructure, greatly advancing mobility and creating economic opportunity in communities negatively impacted by disinvestment, contamination and neglect.

The BLVD Project seeks to improve the Rossville BLVD (US 27) Corridor and its adjoining neighborhoods by advocating for the needs and interests of community members. The CHATT trail would be a valuable asset to our community. Our residents have expressed interest in having more access to walking trails and paths. The CHATT Trail would facilitate a safe connection to the downtown riverwalk. Currently, there are no safe ways to ride bikes with young kids in our community. This trail would open up access for more exercise and opportunities to our community that already shows a strong interest in outdoor activities with the time spent in local parks and on soccer fields.

By supporting these efforts, USDOT can showcase a project closely aligned with the Biden Administration's objectives, such as enhancing access to opportunities for historically underserved communities, creating an equitable transportation system that works for everyone, and progressing to a more environmentally conscience network that prioritizes non-motorized users. This project will deliver healthy, climate-friendly, resilient, and integrated transportation options for residents and visitors of the southside of Chattanooga. It will serve the City of Chattanooga and its residents for many years to come.

Thank you for considering our application for RAISE Program funding.

Sincerely

Heather Herweyer

Heather Herweyer
Director, The BLVD Project

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

RE: FY2023 RAISE Grant Application – The CHATT:


Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

ELLA Library is excited to support the RAISE grant application “The CHATT: Relinking Chattanooga’s Southside,” which is the result of a collaboration between the City of Chattanooga, the Trust for Public Land, and other local stakeholders.

This urban trail project, in historical lower-income communities of color on the southside of Chattanooga, will improve access to transit, jobs, public resources, recreational amenities, and opportunities of economic mobility. Proposed as the first major neighborhood link to the broadly successful Chattanooga Riverwalk, this project will tie together communities separated by geography and infrastructure, greatly advancing mobility and creating economic opportunity in communities negatively impacted by disinvestment, contamination and neglect.

ELLA Library works to serve the southside of Chattanooga and has worked with Trust for Public Land and City of Chattanooga since 2018 to help our community explore public spaces safely, and this urban trail would allow our community to connect with jobs, resources, and recreation safely. By supporting these efforts, USDOT can showcase a project closely aligned with the Biden Administration’s objectives, such as enhancing access to opportunities for historically underserved communities, creating an equitable transportation system that works for everyone, and progressing to a more environmentally conscious network that prioritizes non-motorized users. This project will deliver healthy, climate-friendly, resilient, and integrated transportation options for residents and visitors of the southside of Chattanooga. It will serve the City of Chattanooga and its residents for many years to come.

Thank you for considering our application for RAISE Program funding.

Sincerely,

Jazmine LeBlanc
ELLA Library

ELLA Library
P.O.Box 3034 Chattanooga TN 37404
423-299-5299
www.ellalibrary.org

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



RE: FY2024 RAISE Grant Application – The CHATT:

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The community coalition Chattanoogaans In Action for Love, Equality & Benevolence (CALEB) strongly supports the RAISE grant application “The CHATT: Linking South Chattanooga,” which is the result of a collaboration between the City of Chattanooga, the Trust for Public Land, and other local stakeholders.

This urban trail project, in storied lower-income communities of color on the southside of Chattanooga, will improve access to transit, jobs, public resources, recreational amenities, and opportunities of economic mobility. Proposed as the first major neighborhood link to the broadly successful Chattanooga Riverwalk, this project will tie together communities separated by geography and infrastructure, greatly advancing mobility and creating economic opportunity in communities negatively impacted by disinvestment, contamination and neglect.

CALEB is an institutional coalition of faith communities, labor unions, nonprofits and community leaders working together to build power to affect change in Chattanooga, Hamilton County and Tennessee. A key focus of our collective work is equitable development; widening the number of people and communities that benefit from economic development and infrastructure projects. To that end, CALEB has been a lead partner in efforts to negotiate the city’s first community benefits agreement tied to a proposed stadium development in the South Chattanooga area. The CHATT Urban Trail project is a much needed corollary to connect historically underinvested communities in ways that significantly impact their quality of life.

By supporting these efforts, USDOT can showcase a project closely aligned with the Biden Administration's objectives, such as enhancing access to opportunities for historically underserved communities, creating an equitable transportation system that works for everyone, and progressing to a more environmentally conscience network that prioritizes non-motorized users. This project will deliver healthy, climate-friendly, resilient, and integrated transportation options for residents and visitors of the southside of Chattanooga. It will serve the City of Chattanooga and its residents for many years to come.

Thank you for considering the application for RAISE Program funding.

Sincerely

Michael D. Gilliland
Michael Gilliland
Organizing Director, CALEB
423-508-5087
michael@calebcha.org

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

RE: FY2024 RAISE Grant Application – The CHATT:

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Two Bikes strongly supports the RAISE grant application “The CHATT: Linking South Chattanooga,” which is the result of a collaboration between the City of Chattanooga, the Trust for Public Land, and other local stakeholders.

This urban trail project, in storied lower-income communities of color on the southside of Chattanooga, will improve access to transit, jobs, public resources, recreational amenities, and opportunities of economic mobility. Proposed as the first major neighborhood link to the broadly successful Chattanooga Riverwalk, this project will tie together communities separated by geography and infrastructure, greatly advancing mobility and creating economic opportunity in communities negatively impacted by disinvestment, contamination and neglect.

Two Bikes is a nonprofit bike shop and community center that provides free and affordable bicycles to underserved community members, youth workforce development, and inclusive community events. This project aligns with our mission to use bicycles to foster sustainability, opportunity, and community by creating safer access to bicycling opportunities in underserved areas of Chattanooga, Tennessee.

By supporting these efforts, USDOT can showcase a project closely aligned with the Biden Administration's objectives, such as enhancing access to opportunities for historically underserved communities, creating an equitable transportation system that works for everyone, and progressing to a more environmentally conscience network that prioritizes non-motorized users. This project will deliver healthy, climate-friendly, resilient, and integrated transportation options for residents and visitors of the southside of Chattanooga. It will serve the City of Chattanooga and its residents for many years to come.

Thank you for considering our application for RAISE Program funding.

Sincerely,



J. Mitchell Connell
CEO Two Bikes Inc.
CEO Two Bikes Chattanooga Inc.



David Johnson
Trust for Public Land

Subject: Support for CHATT Linking South Chattanooga Project

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CEO

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Director of Operations

Michael Smith
Director of Impact

Gayle McMillen
Bookkeeper

Niki Bishop
*Program Director:
Guest Services*

Dear Mr. Johnson,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am thrilled to express my full support for the CHATT Linking South Chattanooga Project led by the Trust for Public Land, specifically focusing on the Alton Park Connector and the Crabtree Farms Extension. The project incorporates the needs and concerns of those living and working in the area. The project's goal to transform 2.4 miles of an industrial corridor into a sprawling greenway with stream restoration, urban orchards, and a heavy focus on community resilience resonates with me. A safe pedestrian trail in Chattanooga will improve public health, ensure equitable access to active transportation sources, and allow us to reclaim a brownfield that has been a blight to our community. It is time to change the narrative of environmental degradation in Chattanooga into a narrative of environmental justice and community resilience. This project's focus on collaborative outcomes and workforce development during construction and into the future are allowing us to reclaim this former brownfield site.

Not only do I stand to benefit from this project, the 1,800 residents immediately surrounding the project stand to benefit. This trail will not only help us but help spread the growing movement in Chattanooga for environmental justice and alternative transportation options. Chattanooga needs low emission transportation options that are based in nature. The trail's tree canopy will provide respite to those on it while providing carbon sequestration. Additionally, the trail will provide much needed flood management in Chattanooga that ultimately reduces waterway pollution.

Metropolitan Ministries is located as a social impact hub with wrap around services to support our residents with stability in housing, nutrition, health and well-being.

I urge that you support the CHATT Linking South Chattanooga Project, a transformative initiative that goes beyond infrastructure, symbolizing hope, progress, and community well-being.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

William R. Rush

William R. Rush

CEO/President





WaterWays
clean water • healthy communities

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

RE: FY2024 RAISE Grant Application – The CHATT:

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

WaterWays strongly supports the RAISE grant application “The CHATT: Linking South Chattanooga,” which is the result of a collaboration between the City of Chattanooga, the Trust for Public Land, and other local stakeholders.

This urban trail project, in storied lower-income communities of color on the southside of Chattanooga, will improve access to transit, jobs, public resources, recreational amenities, and opportunities of economic mobility. Proposed as the first major neighborhood link to the broadly successful Chattanooga Riverwalk, this project will tie together communities separated by geography and infrastructure, greatly advancing mobility and creating economic opportunity in communities negatively impacted by disinvestment, contamination and neglect.

WaterWays works in these communities to educate and protect our water resources. Chattanooga Creek is one of the last creeks to retain an intact floodplain and the water storage capacity it holds is vitally important. The floodplain is intact because of decades of disrespect to these communities, to their health, dumping creosote, pesticides, and other toxins in the area. People in these communities deserve better and this will be a great opportunity to take a big step forward for them,

By supporting these efforts, USDOT can showcase a project closely aligned with the Biden Administration's objectives, such as enhancing access to opportunities for historically underserved communities, creating an equitable transportation system that works for everyone, and progressing to a more environmentally conscience network that prioritizes non-motorized users. This project will deliver healthy, climate-friendly, resilient, and integrated transportation options for residents and visitors of the southside of Chattanooga. It will serve the City of Chattanooga and its residents for many years to come.

Thank you for considering our application for RAISE Program funding.

Very truly yours,

Mary Beth H. Sutton
Executive Director

February 13, 2024

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

RE: FY2024 RAISE Grant Application – The CHATT:

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

ArtsBuild strongly supports the RAISE grant application “The CHATT: Linking South Chattanooga,” which is the result of a collaboration between the City of Chattanooga, the Trust for Public Land, and other local stakeholders.

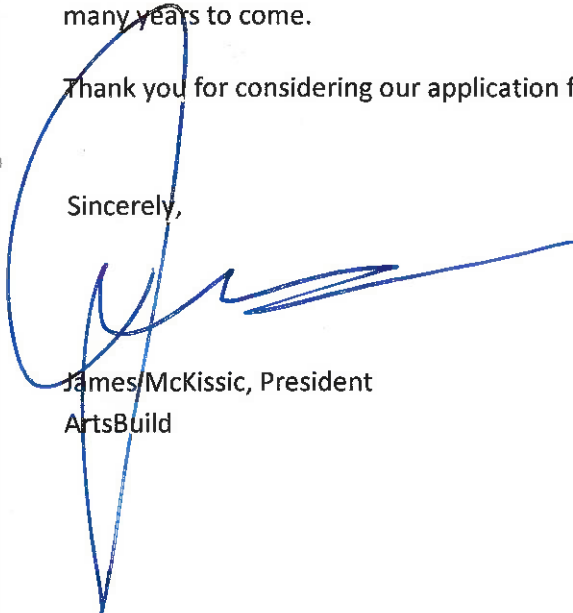
This urban trail project, in storied lower-income communities of color on the southside of Chattanooga, will improve access to transit, jobs, public resources, recreational amenities, and opportunities of economic mobility. Proposed as the first major neighborhood link to the broadly successful Chattanooga Riverwalk, this project will tie together communities separated by geography and infrastructure, greatly advancing mobility and creating economic opportunity in communities negatively impacted by disinvestment, contamination and neglect.

ArtsBuild is a nonprofit organization founded in 1969 through local business leaders and citizens in Chattanooga. Our mission is to build a stronger community through the arts and through that mission we have invested more than \$77 million in arts organizations, arts programs, and arts education. The CHATT project aligns perfectly with our ideals to bring communities together as well as giving back to underserved communities.

By supporting these efforts, USDOT can showcase a project closely aligned with the Biden Administration's objectives, such as enhancing access to opportunities for historically underserved communities, creating an equitable transportation system that works for everyone, and progressing to a more environmentally conscience network that prioritizes non-motorized users. This project will deliver healthy, climate-friendly, resilient, and integrated transportation options for residents and visitors of the southside of Chattanooga. It will serve the City of Chattanooga and its residents for many years to come.

Thank you for considering our application for RAISE Program funding.

Sincerely,


James McKissic, President
ArtsBuild



ArtsBuild.com

P: (423) 756-2787 F: (423) 756-2156

301 E. 11th Street Suite 300 Chattanooga, TN 37403



Chris McKee
President and COO

February 27, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue; SW
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: FY2024 RAISE Grant Application -The CHATT: Linking Chattanooga's Southside

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

McKee Foods strongly supports the RAISE grant application "The CHATT: Linking Chattanooga's Southside," which is the result of a collaboration between the City of Chattanooga, the Trust for Public Land, and other local stakeholders.

This urban trail project, in storied lower-income communities of color on the southside of Chattanooga, will improve access to transit, jobs, public resources, recreational amenities, and opportunities of economic mobility. Proposed as the first major neighborhood link to the broadly successful Chattanooga Riverwalk, this project will tie together communities separated by geography and infrastructure, greatly advancing mobility and creating economic opportunity.

Several employees of McKee Foods live within walking distance of this project and will benefit from its completion. McKee Foods is highly interested in supporting parks and greenways for communities, especially communities from which we draw employees. Our commitment is demonstrated by over \$18 million donated since 2008 to parks, trails and greenways, mostly in cities and towns where our employees live. These donations were made via the program "OH! - the Outdoor Happiness Movement" and combines corporate gifts and McKee Foods owners' gifts. In October 2021, I gave \$250,000 (personal funds) to the Trust for Public Land to jump-start this specific project.

By supporting these efforts, USDOT can showcase a project closely aligned with the Biden Administration's stated objectives, such as enhancing access to opportunities for historically underserved communities. This project will deliver enhanced transportation options for residents and visitors of the southside of Chattanooga. It will serve the City of Chattanooga and its residents for many years to come.

Thank you for considering the application for RAISE Program funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris McKee".

Chris McKee
President and COO