

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

February 03, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We are pleased to express our support for the grant application submitted by the City of Russellville to the RAISE Grant Program. If awarded, funds received would support a 13.8-mile expansion of Russellville's Connected Trail System, connecting the areas north of Interstate-40 to the south at Lock and Dam Park.

This project will provide new connectivity and opportunities for residents and tourists of Russellville, who will enjoy increased access to employment, healthcare, and daily necessities through the availability of alternate forms of transportation. Improvements include a trailhead in alignment with Russellville's Downtown Master Plan, riparian repair along Prairie Creek, and a welcoming connection from the trail into the Historic Downtown District with shopping, restaurants, and other businesses.

We hope you will share our belief that this project will provide a great benefit to Arkansans. We ask that you give this application all due consideration as it progresses forward and that you keep us apprised of its status. We appreciate your continued service to the people of Arkansas.

Sincerely,



John Boozman
U.S. Senator



Tom Cotton
U.S. Senator



Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress

BREANNE DAVIS

ASSISTANT PRO TEMPORE
SENATOR
25TH DISTRICT
(479) 970-0081
breanne.davis@senate.ar.gov

POST OFFICE BOX 10088
RUSSELLVILLE, ARKANSAS 72812



**THE SENATE
STATE OF ARKANSAS**

CHAIR:
EFFICIENCY

MEMBER:
EDUCATION
ETHICS
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
JOINT RETIREMENT & SOCIAL SECURITY
JOINT LEGISLATIVE FACILITIES
JOINT BUDGET
ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

January 19, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Please accept this letter supporting the City of Russellville as it applies for a RAISE grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation. If granted, the funds would be used to expand the Russellville Connected Trail System.

Plans for the project include adding 13.8 miles of a multi-use trail connecting areas north of Interstate 40 with a pedestrian crossing and Union Pacific Railroad grade crossings before connecting to the south at Lock and Dam Park. Additionally, it would include a trailhead along Prairie Creek to create a welcoming and inviting connection to the Historic Downtown District, where pedestrians can have easy access to shopping, restaurants, drugstores, and other businesses. This project would create system-wide connectivity and mobility improvements by removing physical barriers for pedestrians and cyclists, while also providing a safe multi-modal environment that supports access to employment, healthcare, and daily necessities through the availability of alternate forms of transportation.

Expanding the Russellville Connected Trail System looks to be a promising endeavor that would improve the safety, quality of life, and economic competitiveness of the City of Russellville. Respectfully, I ask you to give the application every consideration. Thank you for your time and attention in this matter. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Breanne Davis".

Breanne Davis
Assistant Pro Tempore
District 25

BD:em



STATE OF ARKANSAS

House of Representatives

REPRESENTATIVE

Matt Duffield

P.O. Box 11057

Russellville, Arkansas 72812-1057

479-968-7666 Business

888-946-6288 Cell

479-968-3534 FAX

matt.duffield@arkansashouse.org

DISTRICT 53

Counties:

Part Pope

COMMITTEES:

Judiciary

Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative
and Military Affairs

Rules

1st Alternate,

Legislative Joint Auditing Committee

January 20, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am pleased to write in support of the application submitted by the City of Russellville for an Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism FY2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant.

Should these funds be granted, they would be applied toward the expansion of the Russellville Connected Trail System with the addition of 13.8 miles of multi-use trail connecting areas north of Interstate 40 with a pedestrian crossing, and at-grade crossings across Union Pacific Railroad, before connecting to the south at Lock and Dam Park. The project also includes the addition of an attractive connection from the trail into the historic downtown district where there are businesses providing entertainment and shopping.

This project will provide a safe, multi-modal environment granting wide connectivity and transportation improvements that allow unobstructed transportation for pedestrians and cyclists to employment, healthcare facilities, schools, grocery stores and Russellville's industrial district. Large trail systems, such as this, have not only proven beneficial to the health and fitness of connected communities, but also serve as a catalyst for sustained future growth.

I believe this trail will have a positive impact on the economy, improve the standard of living of residents and provide access to many more opportunities for everyone in my legislative district by creating transportation passageways that are safe and equitable. For all of these reasons, I strongly support the City

Secretary Buttigieg

01/24/2023

Page 2

of Russellville's application. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Duffield". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Matt Duffield
State Representative
District 53

MD/ss

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION

DALTON A. "ALEC" FARMER, JR.
CHAIRMAN
JONESBORO



MARIE HOLDER
LITTLE ROCK

PHILIP TALDO
VICE CHAIRMAN
SPRINGDALE

DAVID M. HAAK
TEXARKANA

KEITH GIBSON
FORT SMITH

P.O. Box 2261 • Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-2261
Phone (501) 569-2000 • Voice/TTY 711 • Fax (501) 569-2400
www.ARDOT.gov • www.IDriveArkansas.com

LORIE H. TUDOR, P.E.
DIRECTOR

February 17, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Reference is made to the City of Russellville's application for funding under the FY2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program.

This project will construct approximately 12 miles of multi-use trails, nearly doubling existing trail system infrastructure in Russellville. Also included in the project are multiple pedestrian crossing improvements, including grade separations of some critical barriers to pedestrian mobility. Overall, the project will enhance transportation in the following ways.

- It will protect non-motorized travelers and communities from safety risks.
- It will increase affordable transportation usage by improving and expanding active transportation choices.
- It will address gaps in the multimodal trail network to complete a connected trail system.

The Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) supports the City of Russellville's application for the FY2023 RAISE grant as a potential funding source to help implement this important project to improve multi-modal safety, mobility and community connectivity, and quality of life.

If additional information is needed, please advise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lorie H. Tudor".

Lorie H. Tudor, P.E.
Director

c: Highway Commission
Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer
Deputy Director and Chief Engineer
Assistant Chief Engineer – Planning
Governmental Relations

Program Management
Public Information Office
Transportation Planning and Policy
District 8
Mayor Fred Teague, City of Russellville



STATE OF ARKANSAS
**Department of Finance
and Administration**

Office of Intergovernmental Services
1515 West Seventh Street, Suite 400
Post Office Box 8031
Little Rock, Arkansas, 72203-8031
Phone: (501) 682-1074
Fax: (501) 682-5206
<https://www.dfa.arkansas.gov/intergovernmental-services>

February 28, 2023

Honorable Fred Teague
Mayor
City of Russellville
203 S. Commerce
Russellville, AR 72801

RE: AR 230228-079
National Infrastructure Investments

Dear Mayor Teague:

The State Clearinghouse is in receipt of the above referenced application submitted in accordance with Executive Order 12372 "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs" and the Arkansas Project Notification and Review System. The Proposal will be submitted to the proper state agencies and interested organizations for their review and comment.

The State Clearinghouse wishes to thank you for your cooperation. Should you have any questions, please contact our office.

Sincerely,
Arkansas State Clearinghouse
Email: igsclearinghouse@dfa.arkansas.gov
Phone: (501) 682-1074

RESOLUTION NO. 2138

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE APPLICATION FOR A RAISE GRANT WITH UNITED STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE CITY OF RUSSELLVILLE, ARKANSAS, TO CONSTRUCT A SYSTEM OF TRAILS WITHIN THE CITY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Russellville, Arkansas (“City”), supports the project of creating, expanding and improving trail systems within the City; and,

WHEREAS, the City is working to expand their Russellville Connected Trail System by adding over 12 miles of a multi-use trail connecting areas north of Interstate 40 with a pedestrian crossing, at grade crossings across Union Pacific Railroad, before connecting to the south at Lock and Dam Park (“Project”); and,

WHEREAS, A safe multi-modal environment that supports access to employment, healthcare, and daily necessities through the availability of alternate forms of transportation, the trail connects healthcare facilities, schools, the Arkansas Tech University, grocery stores, and our industrial district; and,

WHEREAS, successfully delivering this Project would improve the safety, quality of life, economic competitiveness and opportunity for the City of Russellville, and creates system wide connectivity and mobility improvements by removing physical barriers for pedestrians and cyclists.; and,

WHEREAS, the Project includes a trailhead in alignment with our Downtown Master Plan with riparian repair along Prairie Creek creating a welcoming and inviting connection from the Trail into our Historic Downtown District where there is shopping, restaurants, drugstores, and several businesses; and,

WHEREAS, a future phase of this Project will connect across the Arkansas River to Dardanelle via the Dam at Lock and Dam park; and,

WHEREAS, the City has become aware of a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (“RAISE”) Grant under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs (“BIL”) Act which is administered by the United States Department of Transportation (“USDOT”); and,

WHEREAS, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Pub. L. 117-58, November 15, 2021, “Bipartisan Infrastructure Law,” or “BIL”) authorized and appropriated \$1.5 billion to be awarded by the USDOT for FY 2023 for Local and Regional Project Assistance Program Grants under National Infrastructure Investments. On December 29, 2022, the FY 2023 Appropriations Act appropriated an additional \$800 million for the FY 2023. In total, the Department now has at least \$2.275 billion (but no more than \$2.299 billion) available for the FY 2023 RAISE Grant Program; and,

WHEREAS, RAISE grants are for investments in surface transportation that will have a significant local or regional impact to support regional, local, and Tribal initiatives to improve: safety; environmental sustainability; quality of life; mobility and community connectivity; economic competitiveness and opportunity including tourism; state of good repair; partnership and collaboration; and innovation; and,

WHEREAS, RAISE grants awarded with BIL funding may not be greater than \$25 million;
and,

WHEREAS, this Project is an example of what the purpose outlined for RAISE is intended for which is to build scalable upgrades to create transportation corridors that are safe, available, and equitable for all; and,

WHEREAS, since 2009, \$12.1 billion has been awarded under National Infrastructure Investments for capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure over 14 rounds of competitive grants. These awards have supported projects that improve safety, economic strength and global competitiveness, equity, and climate and sustainability consistent with USDOT's strategic goals; and,

WHEREAS, the FY 2023 RAISE round will be implemented, as appropriate and consistent with law, in alignment with the priorities in Executive Order 14052, Implementation of the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (86 FR 64355), which are to invest efficiently and equitably, promote the competitiveness of the U.S. economy, improve job opportunities by focusing on high labor standards, strengthen infrastructure resilience to all hazards including climate change, and to effectively coordinate with State, local, Tribal, and territorial government partners; and,

WHEREAS, the USDOT also seeks to fund projects that, to the extent possible, target at least forty percent (40%) of resources and benefits towards low-income communities, disadvantaged communities, communities underserved by affordable transportation, or overburdened communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RUSSELLVILLE, ARKANSAS, OF THE FOLLOWING:

SECTION 1: The recitals in the Preamble of this Resolution is hereby incorporated into this Resolution by reference.

SECTION 2: The City Council recognizes the need for the Project for the City and concurs in its importance to the City to improve: safety; environmental sustainability; quality of life; mobility and community connectivity; economic competitiveness and opportunity including tourism; state of good repair; partnership and collaboration; and innovation within the City once the Project is completed.

SECTION 3: The City Council has determined that the City meets the eligibility requirements to apply the RAISE Grant with the USDOT.

SECTION 4: The City Council supports and approves the submission of a grant application in the amount of approximately twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000.00) to the USDOT under the Local and Regional Project Assistance Program Grants under National Infrastructure Investments for the construction, expansion and improvement of a system of trails, as previously described and referred to as the Project, to be constructed in the City.

SECTION 5: The Mayor and City Clerk-Treasurer are hereby authorized to execute and submit, or designate a City employed person or persons to submit on their behalf for the City, a RAISE grant application with the USDOT up to \$25,000,000.00 in RAISE grant money for the City to use on the aforementioned Project within the City.

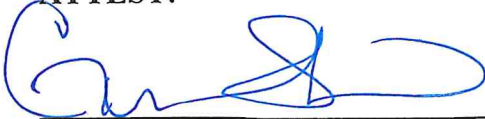
Prepared by:
William F. Smith III
City Attorney
203 S. Commerce Ave.
Russellville, AR 72801
Sponsor: City Council
NB#3

SECTION 6: Upon receipt of any RAISE grant money from USDOT, the Mayor, City Clerk-Treasurer and the Finance Director are hereby authorized to receipt the said grant money and to administer the said grant money in accordance with construction, expansion and improvement the Project as approved by the City Council for the benefit of the City and its inhabitants.

SECTION 7: This Resolution shall go into effect immediately upon and after passage.

RESOLVED and ORDERED, this 16th day of February, 2023.

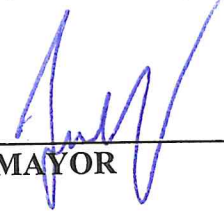
ATTEST:



GINA SKELTON, CITY CLERK-TREASURER

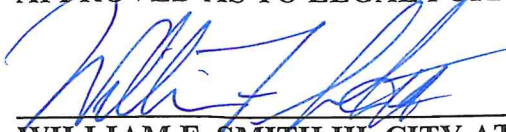


FRED TEAGUE, MAYOR



I, Gina Skelton, City Clerk-Treasurer of the City of Russellville, Arkansas, hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 2130 passed by the City Council of the City of Russellville, Arkansas, on the 16th day of February, 2023.

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:



WILLIAM F. SMITH III, CITY ATTORNEY



BEN D. CROSS
POPE COUNTY JUDGE

100 West Main Street Russellville, AR 72801
(479) 968-7487 Fax (479) 967-6874
popecountyjudge@popecountyar.gov



February 14, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg

Secretary of Transportation

U.S. Department of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE

Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: *Letter of Support – Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant.*

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

As the Chief Executive of Pope County Arkansas, and its' highest elected official, I support and stand united with the City of Russellville in their application for the FY 2023 RAISE Grant to be awarded by the Department of Transportation.

Successfully delivering this project would improve the safety, quality of life, economic competitiveness and opportunity for the City of Russellville, and creates system wide connectivity and mobility improvements by removing physical barriers for pedestrians and cyclists through many existing trail systems. It would promote a safe multi-modal environment that supports access to employment, healthcare, and daily necessities through the availability of alternate forms of transportation. The expanded trail system would connect healthcare facilities, schools, our 10,000 student university, grocery stores, and our industrial district.

This project is an example of what the purpose outlined for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) is intended for. To build scalable upgrades to create transportation corridors that are safe, available, and equitable for all. I hope this correspondence will reflect our "all in" approach to support this worthwhile endeavor and enhance the future of the seat of county government in Pope County.

Respectfully,

Ben D. Cross

Pope County Judge

MAYOR
JIMMY L. WITT
P.O. BOX 360
OFFICE 120 N. FRONT

CITY ATTORNEY
KENNARD K. HELTON
P.O. BOX 297
OFFICE 108 QUAY STREET

CLERK
FRANCES CROSS
P.O. BOX 360
OFFICE 120 N. FRONT



P.O. BOX 360 • Dardanelle, AR 72834
479-229-4500 • Fax: 479-229-4804

ALDERMAN WARD 1
KENNY GEORGE
KURT SPEARS

ALDERMAN WARD 2
DAVID MERRITT
CRYSTAL MALLOY

ALDERMAN WARD 3
RASHAD WOODS
KENNETH DUVAL

February 23, 2023

Reference: City of Russellville, Arkansas
RAISE Grant Application

To Whom It May Concern;

The City of Dardanelle fully supports Mayor Fred Teague and the City of Russellville, Arkansas in their application for a RAISE grant. The grant would provide much needed funding that would benefit the community as a whole. As neighboring cities, we work together often to improve the lives of all the citizens of our communities and fully support this application for a RAISE grant.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jimmy L. Witt", is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Mayor Jimmy L. Witt
City of Dardanelle

JLW/fc

February 14, 2023

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



Dear Secretary Buttigieg

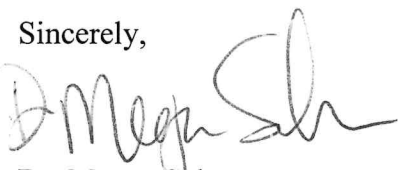
The Russellville Area Chamber of Commerce, Russellville Regional Alliance for Economic Development, and Russellville Chamber Quality of Place Committee are pleased to submit this letter as an indication of our full support for an Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism FY2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant.

The funds associated with this grant would provide our community with the opportunity to expand the Russellville Connected Trail System with additional mileage and multi-use connections north of I-40. It would also allow pedestrian access/crossings in key areas, such as over railroads and access connection points including our Lock and Dam Park. It includes access to our historic downtown district which includes many small businesses, entertainment, and shopping.

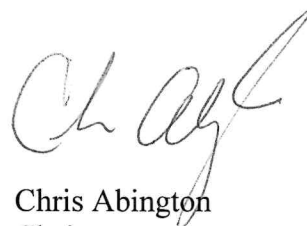
This project presents our community with multi-modal connectivity options, transportation options for pedestrians and cyclists, connectivity between recreational points and healthcare facilities, and increased connectivity for significant community resources such as schools, grocery stores, and our industrial district. This will increase transportation options for our workforce to access labor opportunities in our East End Industrial Park.

This trail system will positively impact our local economy and improve the quality of life within our region. We strongly support this endeavor and the City's application for this funding.

Sincerely,



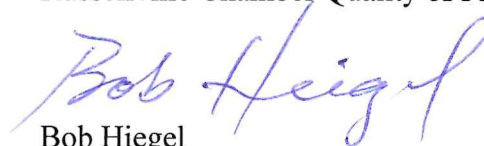
Dr. Megan Selman
President and CEO
Russellville Chamber of Commerce



Chris Abington
Chairman
Russellville Chamber Quality of Place Committee



Alyssa Carter
Vice President
Russellville Chamber of Commerce



Bob Hiegel
Co-Chairman
Russellville Chamber Quality of Place Committee



Russellville
ARKANSAS

Russellville Tourism & Visitors Center.

February 20, 2023

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

It is my pleasure to write a letter in support for the Rebuilding American with Sustainability and Equity Grant for the City of Russellville. The city is working to expand their Russellville Connected Trail System by adding over 12 miles of a multi-use trail connecting areas north of Interstate 40 with a pedestrian crossing, at grade crossing across Union Pacific Railroad, before connecting to the south at Lock and Dam Park, nearly doubling current trail mileage. Successfully delivering this project would improve the safety, quality of life, economic competitiveness and opportunity for the City of Russellville, and creates system wide connectivity and mobility improvements by removing physical barriers for pedestrians and cyclists.

This project is an example of what the purpose outlined for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) is intended for. To build scalable upgrades to create transportation corridors that are safe, available, and equitable for all.

We hope you will strongly consider the City of Russellville for this grant considering the huge impact it would create.

Sincerely,



Christie Graham

Executive Director



February 17, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Russellville School District is writing this letter to support the City of Russellville's plans for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant. Successfully delivering this project would improve the safety, quality of life, and economic competitiveness and opportunity for the City of Russellville. It will also create system wide connectivity and mobility improvements by removing physical barriers for pedestrians and cyclists.

This project ties into the Russellville Connected Trail System existing and future alignments. The trail connects healthcare facilities, schools, the University, grocery stores, and the industrial district. This safe, multi-modal environment will support access to employment, healthcare, and daily necessities through availability of alternate forms of transportation.

Partnering with the City, Russellville School District looks forward to having outdoor classroom opportunities along the trail system that adjoin some of our local wetlands, along with opportunities for our Cycling and Cross Country teams to have access to this system. Teachers and Students alike will also have access to utilize active transportation options when coming to and from school helping them feel safer.

In conclusion, the Russellville School District fully supports the efforts of the City of Russellville to seek external funding to support a program which creates transportation corridors that are safe, available, and equitable for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Ginni McDonald'.

Dr. Ginni McDonald



POPE COUNTY 100 FAMILIES ALLIANCE
1-ROOF BUILDING * 3001 E. H Street
Russellville, AR 72801

February 14, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

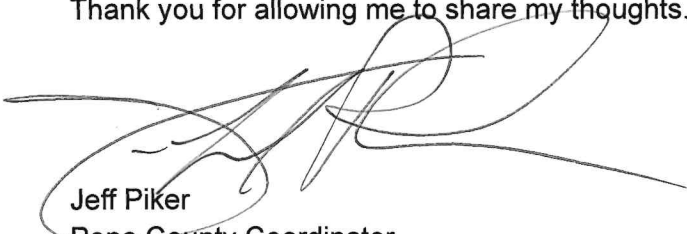
My name is Jeff Piker and I am the Pope County Coordinator for 100 Families. Our organization works through collective impact to help families in crisis. We currently have over 80 families that we are working with in Pope County. We work with, and through various agencies and nonprofits to help our clients find stability and hope for their future.

One of the biggest hurdles that our families face in trying to move from crisis to stability is transportation. Currently, being able to freely move from one place to another within Russellville is difficult without owning a vehicle and many of our families do not. They rely on walking or riding their bike back and forth to work, school and other appointments. Having the Russellville Connected Trail System expanded would have a powerful and immediate impact on our community and especially these families.

Having a designated trail system that would connect our families to employment and healthcare would give them the opportunity to change their situations and help enable them to move towards independence. I know the initial response to many would be that people can walk anywhere, but with our families, safety is a vital concern. The expanded trail system would provide ease and peace of mind to families that already face so many difficulties.

Many would see this expansion as a luxury to our citizens, that they would enjoy a leisurely stroll or bike ride. But we see this as a pathway out of poverty and dependence, to a place of stability and financial security.

Thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts.



Jeff Piker
Pope County Coordinator
100 Families

PHONE: 479-274-0269 * EMAIL: 100families@myjourney.tv



February 17, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Arvest Bank is a strong advocate for safe, affordable, and sustainable transportation regardless of race, wealth, gender, ability or where they live. Biking and walking are the most healthy and sustainable ways to move. We are pleased to provide a letter of support to the City of Russellville's application for the RAISE Grant to move forward with the construction of over 12 miles of multi-use trails.

This project would successfully improve the safety, quality of life, economic competitiveness, and opportunity for the City of Russellville, and create system wide connectivity and mobility by removing physical barriers for pedestrian and cyclist.

We are encouraged by the City of Russellville's efforts to ensure that the benefits and impacts of the trail system will enhance and preserve the existing communities along the trail. We expect that the trail will be a catalyst for economic development at key locations along its route. We also expect that the creation of this new transportation corridor will improve the quality of life for residents throughout Russellville.

Arvest Bank strongly supports and recommends the RAISE Grant be awarded to the City of Russellville. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Bates", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Shawn Bates
Community Bank President

1509 North Boulder Ave
Administration Building, Suite 210
Russellville, AR 72801

☎ 479-968-0228

🏠 www.atu.edu/presidentsoffice

February 20, 2023

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

RE: Letter of Support – Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

As president of Arkansas Tech University, I can testify to the transformative power the Fiscal Year 2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant would have in our community of Russellville, Arkansas.

The opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors is one of the distinguishing characteristics that leads many of the more than 7,000 students on our Russellville campus to choose Arkansas Tech. The proposed 12-mile expansion of the Russellville Connected Trail System would support that outdoors emphasis while greatly enhancing our students' access to the town in which they live and expanding upon our ongoing efforts to create a greater connection between our campus and our community.

One of my greatest concerns is for our students who lack access to regular and reliable transportation by vehicle. We do not have public transportation in our community, so many of these students travel by foot or bicycle to access necessities such as health care and groceries. Their safety and access would be greatly improved by the proposed trail expansion.

Safe. Sustainable. Equitable. Accessible. The proposed expansion of the Russellville Connected Trail System aligns with the ideals expressed in the RAISE program and would be a significant contribution to the quality of place in our community and at our university.

Thank you for your consideration of our application and for your continued efforts to enhance life in America through improved transportation infrastructure.

Sincerely,



Dr. Robin E. Bowen
President
Arkansas Tech University

February 21, 2023

Sara M. Jondahl, AICP
City Planner, Planning & Development
220 N Knoxville AV,
Russellville, AR 72801
479-968-1002

Dear Ms. Jondahl

On behalf of the Citizens' Climate Lobby – Russellville, Arkansas Chapter, I'm delighted to submit this letter of support for Russellville's RAISE Grant application.

Our chapter members are excited about the proposed expansion of the Russellville Connected Trail System, which will increase the safety and ease of moving through Russellville on foot and bicycles.

Broad access to public walking and biking trails is important to community health. It also builds a sense of shared resources, shared space, shared responsibility, and a feeling of belonging and togetherness as a community. These qualitative aspects are important to us as an organization that strives to bring people together.

The proposed riparian repair along Prairie Creek is also essential, especially as our area experiences more intense rainfall with greater frequency.

Sincerely,

Jan Schaper, CCL Volunteer



P. 479-968-2105
F. 479-968-3265

"Award Winning Water"

February 23, 2023

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

RE: Letter of Support – Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant.

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The City of Russellville is applying for the FY 2023 RAISE Grant as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to be awarded by the Department of Transportation. The City of Russellville is working to expand their Russellville Connected Trail System by adding over 12 miles of a multi-use trail connecting areas north of Interstate 40 with a pedestrian crossing, at grade crossings across Union Pacific Railroad, before connecting to the south at Lock and Dam Park, nearly doubling current trail mileage.

We at City Corporation have worked in conjunction with the Russellville Public Works department on many water and wastewater infrastructure projects that accommodated the installation and/or improvement of the trail system throughout Russellville. We have taken every opportunity to add trails when we are working in areas that are identified in the Trails Master Plan. We are making good progress but this grant money would allow the City of Russellville to tie many of these sections together and provide a complete trails system in a single project in a much more timely fashion.

We at City Corporation have several employees that are active and use the sidewalk and trail systems during breaks, lunch hours and during their time off work. This project would greatly enhance this experience not only for our employees but also would improve the safety, quality of life, economic competitiveness and opportunity for all citizens that live in and around the City of Russellville.

205 W. 3rd Place
PO Box 3186
Russellville, AR 72811
citycorporation.com



P. 479-968-2105
F. 479-968-3265

"Award Winning Water"

The City of Russellville has made a strong commitment to implementing a safe multi-modal trail system that supports access to employment, healthcare, and daily necessities through the availability of alternate forms of transportation. Many miles and many dollars have been spent already and notable portions of the trails system have been constructed. This funding would simply accelerate that commitment and allow for interconnection of the existing sections and improve access to many more citizens and visitors to the City of Russellville.

As a personal testament, my family and I have personally used many segments of sidewalks and trails that have been installed in our area and I have noticed a growing participation in not only our area but all areas where these trails have been constructed. Having a safe, protected pathway is critical to promoting physical activity as well as functional transportation to and from work, play, etc.

The project includes a trailhead in alignment with our Downtown Master Plan with riparian repair along Prairie Creek creating a welcoming and inviting connection from the Trail into our Historic Downtown District where there is shopping, restaurants, drugstores, and several businesses.

This project ties into the Russellville Connected Trail System existing and future alignments and is a great example of what the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) funding was targeted for. We respectfully request your consideration with regards to funding our project here in Russellville.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Mallett, Jr.", is written over a white background.

Steve Mallett, Jr., P.E.
General Manager
City Corporation – Russellville Water & Sewer



3100 E. MAIN STREET
RUSSELLVILLE, AR 72802

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

February 26, 2023

SUBJECT: Letter of Support – RAISE Grant

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

After having reviewed the city's topline plan to build scalable upgrades to create transportation corridors that are safe, available, and equitable for all, I am writing this letter in support of the City of Russellville's request to obtain financial funding through the RAISE Grant program.

Conagra employs in excess of 1,500 residents of the River Valley area and many of them and other residents would benefit from the dramatic improvements in alternate forms of travel in and around the community. Specifically, by making their commutes to work safer and improving access to grocery stores, schools, and health care facilities.

Thank you for your consideration. I am happy to discuss in greater detail should it be of any assistance.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Wilson", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Joe Wilson
Plant Manager
Conagra Brands
joe.wilson@conagra.com



To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the Russellville RAISE grant. As the head coach of Cyclone Cycling, a youth development program for grades 6-12, I am keenly aware of the importance of creating safe, accessible, and engaging outdoor spaces for our community's young people.

The Russellville RAISE grant would provide a wonderful opportunity to remove barriers to outdoor recreation and create a safe and welcoming place for families to ride bikes together. This grant would enable us to offer a range of cycling activities for all ages, from beginners to experienced riders, and help make cycling a lifetime option for recreation and transportation.

As a cycling coach, I have seen firsthand the incredible impact that cycling can have on young people's lives. Not only does cycling offer a fun and healthy form of exercise, but it also fosters teamwork, builds confidence, and instills a sense of independence and responsibility. By providing a safe and accessible space for families to ride bikes, we can help create a positive and supportive community that encourages healthy and active lifestyles.

In addition to the many benefits for young people, the Russellville RAISE grant would also have a positive impact on our wider community. By promoting alternative forms of transportation and encouraging more people to ride bikes, we can help reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality. Moreover, by providing a space for families to come together and enjoy outdoor activities, we can help build stronger social bonds and promote a sense of community pride and cohesion.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support the Russellville RAISE grant and urge the committee to approve this important initiative. By creating a safe and accessible space for families to ride bikes and enjoy outdoor activities, we can help promote healthy lifestyles, build stronger communities, and create a brighter future for our young people.

Sincerely,
Kevin Holmes
Head Coach, Cyclone Cycling
(479) 857-0815



February 21, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg

Secretary of Transportation

U.S Department of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE

Washington, D.C.20590

RE: Letter of Support- Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant.

Dear Secretary, Buttigieg,

Entergy Arkansas LLC is invested in communities in the areas we serve. In 2022 Entergy Arkansas LLC awarded 1.5 million dollars in grant funding in Arkansas. We invest in solutions that attack the root causes of poverty, support education and workforce development, and protect and preserve the environment. We would like to express support for the City of Russellville in consideration of the U.S. Department of Transportation awarding our city partners the RAISE Grant.

As a utility that is leading the industry in helping to reduce emissions across all scopes funding this grant to the City of Russellville located in our service territory could help us achieve our goals of investing in our community through lowering emissions by providing more alternatives for Russellville Arkansas residents to get to work, or commute to the local university in the area, Arkansas Tech University.

These additional trail systems can provide greater means of transportation for residents who are disadvantaged and provide access to the existing trail systems that have already been developed to provide access to and other places that provide higher quality of life opportunities.

Thank you for any consideration given on behalf of Entergy Corp. and our city partners in Russellville.

Kindest regards,

Ventrell Thompson

Vice President, Customer Service

Entergy Arkansas LLC



FARM CREDIT

OF WESTERN ARKANSAS

February 22nd, 2023

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

RE: Letter of Support – Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant.

Secretary Buttigieg:

Farm Credit of Western Arkansas is writing this letter to express our support for the City of Russellville and their application of the 2023 RAISE Grant. We believe that Russellville is a growing community who does an excellent job in recognizing the needs of its citizens through their long-range planning initiatives. It has great support from its citizens for projects used to create and benefit the public good and expresses this through a good public/private partnership. It is for these reasons that Farm Credit has made the investment and commitment to the city for a new state of the art facility as our new district headquarters. This new facility ground-breaking will start in the spring of 2023 and include access for its staff to private trails close to connecting public city biking and walking trails.

A project supported by the RAISE grant would include A safe multi-modal environment that supports access to employment, healthcare, and daily necessities through the availability of alternate forms of transportation. The proposed plans for grant would aid in connecting healthcare facilities, schools, the University, Grocery Stores, and our industrial district.

Farm Credit, as stakeholder of this community, would love to support the city's application and would appreciate any consideration that the US Department of Transportation would provide in helping the community add additional pedestrian infrastructure to our great city.

Regards,

Cody Black
Chief Risk Officer
Farm Credit of Western Arkansas



P.O. Box 10610 • Russellville, AR 72812
479-498-2400

February 21, 2023

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

RE: Letter of Support – Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant.

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

My name is Chip Blanchard and I am the President and COO of First State Bank in Russellville, Arkansas. We are a locally owned community bank that is headquartered in Russellville. I grew up here and consider myself fortunate to be able to raise my family in the same town. We believe in giving back to our community and taking ownership in our future. Over the past several years our community leaders and citizens have worked tirelessly to focus on a shared strategic vision for Russellville. Both our private sector and public sector have come together to invest in numerous quality of life initiatives throughout the river valley region. These initiatives, and our community's shared vision of quality of life, will serve as a guide for future investments in Russellville. We are beginning to see the benefits of these efforts and are excited about what the future holds. I firmly believe Russellville can be a destination for people across the country who want to "Work Like Your On Vacation."

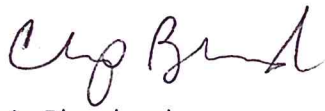
Russellville and the surrounding area provide an unparalleled experience for outdoor enthusiasts with everything from lakes and rivers to mountains and trails. As a community, we have focused on investing in these areas. These efforts have led to the addition of nationally known running events, mountain bike races, and fishing tournaments, among many others. We know that we can't do it alone and that securing funding for these projects is essential to our continued focus on quality of life initiatives. As such, we are applying for the FY 2023 RAISE Grant as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to be awarded by the Department of Transportation. The impact of this grant would be enormous for our community and provide much needed funding for the strategic plan that is already in place.

The City of Russellville is working to expand their Russellville Connected Trail System by adding over 12 miles of a multi-use trail connecting areas north of Interstate 40 with a pedestrian crossing, at grade crossings across Union Pacific Railroad, before connecting to the south at Lock and Dam Park, nearly doubling current trail mileage.

Successfully delivering this project would improve the safety, quality of life, economic competitiveness and opportunity for the City of Russellville, and creates system wide connectivity and mobility improvements by removing physical barriers for pedestrians and cyclists. This project is an example of what the purpose outlined for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) is intended for. To build scalable upgrades to create transportation corridors that are safe, available, and equitable for all.

I appreciate your consideration in this grant application. I ensure you that the dollars invested would be turned over numerous times and have an immediate economic and quality of life impact for Russellville and the surrounding communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chip Blanchard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chip Blanchard

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



Re: FY 2023 RAISE Grant
Date: February 7, 2023

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We are contacting you on behalf of the City of Russellville, Arkansas asking that Russellville be considered for the FY 2023 RAISE grant. Our City Planner, Sarah Jondahl, requested that we, along with other area business owners reach out to you for your support in this matter.

The City of Russellville is an active and growing city and the home of Arkansas Tech University. Founded in 1901, ATU has grown to an enrollment of over 8,900 students in 2022. The campus sits on over 600 acres and boasts accredited Engineering and BSN in Nursing programs, as well as education and other degree programs. Russellville is very much a college town with so much of our city being centered around the university.

Russellville has also been selected to be home for Legends Casino and Resort. Arkansas voters passed a constitutional amendment in 2018 allowing two large scale commercial casinos to be added through the state. Pope and Jefferson counties were chosen. Russellville expects exponential growth via the addition of such a large-scale development, making transportation a top priority and concern moving forward.

Our city is also home to some of the most incredible sites in the Natural State. Mountain bike and hiking trails, disc golf courses, lakes, rivers, and state parks are all found in our area. Our love for the outdoors is evident and makes Russellville a big attraction to outdoorsmen of all kinds. The funds from this grant would allow Russellville to expand our trails and connect our city throughout with unbelievable and state of the art trails, giving yet another reason for people from all over the country to visit. We believe that all these reasons combine to make Russellville a deserving recipient of the FY 2023 RAISE grant and would be truly honored by your support.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ira Wimer'.

Ira Wimer AIA, NCARB
Partner & Principal Architect
ira@htw-ae.com

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jerry L. Terrell, II'.

Jerry L. Terrell, II PE
Partner & Principal Engineer
jerry@htw-ae.com

Dear RAISE Grants Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Russellville's application for a RAISE grant. As a local multi-surface-cyclist, advocate for greener transportation and cycling commuter, I am aware of the pressing needs and challenges that the community of Russellville is facing, and I believe that this grant would go a long way in addressing some of these issues.

The RAISE grant would enable Russellville to undertake several critical projects, such as improving the greenway infrastructure, enhancing pedestrian and cyclists' safety, creating job opportunities, and boosting economic growth through a more walkable and rideable community. These initiatives would benefit the entire community, from young children to senior citizens, and have a lasting impact on the quality of life in the area.

I have been impressed by the commitment and dedication of the leaders of Russellville, who have demonstrated their ability to develop and execute plans that are both feasible and impactful. They have identified the key priorities of the community and have put together a comprehensive plan to address them. I have no doubt that the funds from this grant would be used wisely and effectively to achieve the desired outcomes.

Moreover, the RAISE grant would also help Russellville to build resilience and adapt to the changing social and economic landscape. It would enable the community to be better prepared for future challenges and to capitalize on emerging opportunities.

In conclusion, I strongly urge you to consider Russellville's RAISE grant application favorably. The community of Russellville has demonstrated its commitment to making a positive change, and this grant would be a significant boost toward achieving its goals. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Liz Chrisman

International Mountain Bicycling Association

Russellville, AR

Philip B. Wanzer
507 E. Gum St.
Russville Ar. 72802
479-747-1524

To whom it concerns,

I was a Master Naturalist for over 10 years. Now I have a few years as a Master Gardener. I have well over 50 events on Facebook in organizing cleanups and trail work. The grant the city is applying for will be a win win for this town. As a Master Gardener I can see us helping with garden areas along the trails. This is a very exciting idea of which I support all the below.

The City of Russellville is applying for the FY 2023 RAISE Grant as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to be awarded by the Department of Transportation.

- The City of Russellville is working to expand their Russellville Connected Trail System by adding over 12 miles of a multi-use trail connecting areas north of Interstate 40 with a pedestrian crossing, at grade crossings across Union Pacific Railroad, before connecting to the south at Lock and Dam Park.
- Successfully delivering this project would improve the safety, quality of life, economic competitiveness and opportunity for the City of Russellville, and creates system wide connectivity and mobility improvements by removing physical barriers for pedestrians and cyclists.
- A safe multi-modal environment that supports access to employment, healthcare, and daily necessities through the availability of alternate forms of transportation, the trail connects healthcare facilities, schools, the University, Grocery Stores, and our industrial district.
- The project includes a trailhead in alignment with our Downtown Master Plan with riparian repair along Prairie Creek creating a welcoming and inviting connection from the Trail into our Historic Downtown District where there is shopping, restaurants, drugstores, and several businesses.
- This project is an example of what the purpose outlined for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) is intended for. To build scalable upgrades to create transportation corridors that are safe, available, and equitable for all.
- A future phase of this project will connect across the Arkansas River to Dardanelle via the Dam at Lock and Dam park.

Sincerely,

Philip B Wanzer



POPE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

Russellville Atkins Dover Hector

February 14, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

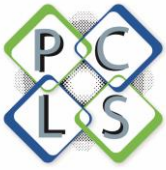
On behalf of the Pope County Library System (PCLS), a way-more-than-books establishment in rural Arkansas, with a reputation for providing community services far above and beyond the call of Dewey Decimal duty, I am writing to express our libraries' enthusiastic and unwavering support of the city of Russellville's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant application to create the Russellville Connected Trail System (RCTS). This multifaceted project will not only provide much-needed safe transportation alternatives for physically connecting people with resources—it also incorporates elements deliberately designed to create (and/or repair) connections among people.

Most letters of support for the RCTS grant application will likely focus on economic and infrastructure benefits generated by trails: an increase in local spending, higher property values, the soft amenity aspect that communities with trails are more attractive places to live and work—and thus are more attractive to companies looking to expand or relocate. Other letters may champion health benefits that trails inherently provide to both people and the environment: commuting via trail instead of automobile increases health and fitness; decreases healthcare, auto care, and fuel expenses; improves air quality; and protects natural resources and rural legacy. While these benefits directly address and support how RCTS aligns with the RAISE grant's outlined statutory merit criteria, I also advocate specifically for the social rebuilding opportunities created through RCTS, which I propose put an innovative expansion on the meaning of "Community Connectivity" to include not only transportation connections but also uniting people in a common cause that creates goodwill, builds teams, and fosters diplomacy.

www.popelibrary.org

116 East Third Street - Russellville, AR 72801

479-968-4368 - 479-968-3222 (Fax)



POPE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

Russellville Atkins Dover Hector

In this time of polarization and divisiveness, where so many appear to have forgotten that the ability to agree to disagree is a good and necessary skill, people here are uniting behind the RAISE grant team's emphasis on Pope County as a community in unity in support of the RCTS project. This data holds great promise for Russellville's future and revitalization. Trails are by nature (pun intended) social places, and as we join together to reclaim the neglected, overgrown, and litter-strewn winding waterways that flow adjacent to much of the RCTS, the emphasis (and publicity) will focus on the tremendous community pride we take in what we are repurposing. And when we create community art projects that transform all-but-abandoned rail corridors and dumpster corrals into Instagrammable-moment inspirations, the accompanying #qualityoflife and #russellvilleconnected will be tributes to what we can accomplish together.

Your consideration of the RCTS grant proposal is most appreciated. Please keep up the good work, sir.

Sincerely,

Pope County Library System
www.popelibrary.org

www.popelibrary.org

116 East Third Street - Russellville, AR 72801

479-968-4368 - 479-968-3222 (Fax)



2203 S.Knoxville Ave., Russellville, AR 72802 * Russellville High School * (Office) 1-479-968-3151

To Whom it May Concern,

On behalf of the Natural Sciences Department at Russellville High School, we are writing to express our strong support for the city of Russellville's proposed RAISE Grant plan of action. As a department dedicated to the study, understanding, and experiencing of the natural world, we believe that this project has the potential to make a profound impact on the local community and its residents.

The proposed project, which aims to create outdoor classrooms, environmental education initiatives, and partnerships with environmental restoration projects, aligns with our department's values and mission. We believe that students should have the opportunity to learn about and engage with the natural environment, and that this project will provide them with just such an opportunity. The retention of the wetlands just north of the high school is of great importance, not just for the sake of preserving the area's natural beauty, but also for the educational opportunities it presents. The presence of beaver dams and other natural features of the wetlands provides an excellent opportunity for students to learn about the interconnectedness of ecosystems and the importance of conservation. Furthermore, the opportunity to partner with environmental restoration projects would allow students to not just learn about the environment but to actively participate in preserving it.

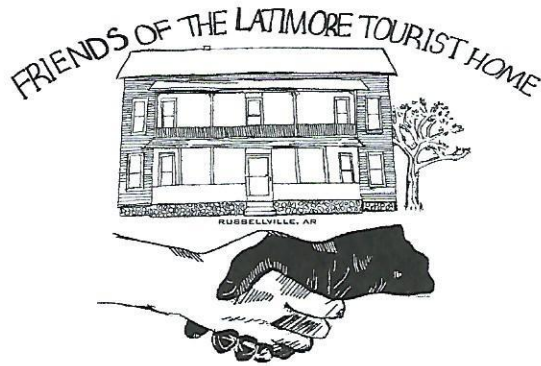
In addition to the educational benefits, the proposed project will also create a safe multi-modal environment that supports access to daily necessities, employment, and healthcare facilities. The trail connecting these essential services will not only provide access to the wider community but will also promote active transportation and healthy lifestyle choices.

Successfully delivering this project would have a profound impact on the City of Russellville. Improving the safety and quality of life for residents, and creating system wide connectivity and mobility improvements by removing physical barriers for pedestrians and cyclists, will make Russellville a more attractive place to live and work, thereby improving its economic competitiveness and opportunity.

In conclusion, we believe that the RAISE Grant has the potential to create significant positive impacts on the community, both environmentally and educationally. We strongly support this initiative and urge you to give it the attention and funding it deserves.

Sincerely,

Mark Meredith
Science Department
Russellville High School
(479) 477-0435



February 15, 2023

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

RE: Letter of Support – Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)
Grant Application.

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing this letter of support on behalf of the board of directors of a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that has partnered with our city to save, restore and bring back to life an historic Green Book site that's listed in the National Register of Historic Places.. During the racially segregated era of Jim Crow, the Latimore Tourist Home provided a place of refuge and safe lodging for African Americans traveling between Little Rock and Fort Smith, Arkansas. The Latimore Tourist Home is located in a historically Black neighborhood adjacent to James School Park. This project is currently in the second phase of restoration and, while there is still much work to be done, we hope that when completely restored and open to the public the Latimore Tourist Home will be included as a stop on the United States Civil Rights Trail. We are excited to hear that the City of Russellville is applying for the RAISE grant to expand our current Russellville Connected Trail System. The vision of a multi use trail system that would provide safe pedestrian access that better connects our entire community has been a long standing vision of many of our citizens. It is exciting to think that we may finally have the multi modal transportation system in Russellville where children from any part of our city could walk or ride their bike to school, to one of our city parks or to other area amenities like the Latimore Tourist Home. We support this effort for the long range impact that it will have on the social, cultural and economic health of our community.

Thank you for your consideration of the City of Russellville's application for FY 2023 RAISE grant funds. I would like to personally invite you for a visit to our community to meet the people and see the places that make this place special.

Kindest Regards,

Randy Hendrix, President, Friends of the Latimore Tourist Home, Inc.



February 27, 2023

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE RUSSELLVILLE CONNECTED TRAIL SYSTEM

To Whom It May Concern:

The River Valley Arts Center is the established, premier, non-profit, community arts education organization in Russellville. Our mission directly states that we are to help enrich the vibrancy of the River Valley Community by providing collaborative, creative, and diverse programs to enhance visual and performing arts for everyone of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities. We believe it our responsibility to nurture the artistic nature of humanity through meaningful opportunities to experience, create, and appreciate art in our community. The proposed Connected Trail System in Russellville certainly meets this criteria, and it has our full-fledged support.

The construction of well-designed, safe and spacious trails connecting the public parks in our beautiful city is a wonderful idea, as it provides multiple transportation options to our citizens. We are pleased to see the research reported on how this trail system encourages a more active lifestyle while providing access to greener spaces for everyone, including our historically disadvantaged communities. How brilliant to include the Master Gardeners for the visual enrichment of the green spaces, and for the much-needed shade trees during the brutal days of summer! The RVAC Board and I are especially enthusiastic and appreciative that the grant committee has included our recommendations regarding the mural wall intended to conceal and beautify the refuse area at the City Mall. There is excellent potential for community-wide involvement, and I look forward to collaborating with you on making this event everything the committee and community have envisioned.

Board of Directors 2023

President

Sheri McCullah

Vice President

David Coffman

Secretary

Sherry Tinerella

Treasurer

Brian Tynes

Libby Caston

Roy McSpadden

Lillian Green

Janet Wiley

Mora Hammer

Cecelia Langford

Executive Director

Jennifer Lewter

Administrative Assistant

Camryn Gullede

River Valley Arts Center

P.O. Box 2112

1001 E B Street

Russellville, AR 72801

www.rivervalleyartscenter.org

479-968-2452

Jennifer Lewter

Executive Director

River Valley Christian Clinic

3001 E H Street
Russellville, AR. 72802
479-567-5700
www.rvchristianclinic.org

February 20, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

My Name is Becky Beavers, and I am the clinic Administrator for the River Valley Christian Clinic. RVCC is a Charity Clinic that provides Free Medical, Dental, and Optical to uninsured and/or underinsured who fall below 300 % of the poverty guidelines. We serve around 280 patients per month.

We are part of the 1Roof Charity Mall, which houses several Charities under one roof. The Trail would benefit our community as our patients could access our clinic and other charities by bike or walking. Many of our patients are a one-vehicle family or do not own a vehicle at all.

Having a designated Trail system that would connect our families to employment and healthcare would give them an excellent opportunity to change their situations and help them move toward independence.

Please consider Russellville for this grant; it will help many in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Becky Beavers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'B'.

Becky Beavers

Clinic Administrator



Russellville Police Department

115 West "H" Street • Russellville, AR 72801
(479) 968-3232 / Chief's Fax: (479) 968-2241
CID Fax: (479) 968-1920 / Records Fax: (479) 968-8621



Chief David Ewing

February 13, 2023

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

RE: Letter of Support – Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The purpose of this letter is to express my support for RAISE Grant application for the City of Russellville, Arkansas. The City of Russellville is applying for the FY 2023 RAISE Grant as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to be awarded by the Department of Transportation.

It is my belief that this project would improve the safety, quality of life, economic competitiveness, and opportunity for the City of Russellville which are important aspects from a law enforcement perspective. This project would create system wide connectivity and mobility improvements to areas of our City that highlight our historical heritage, promotes our economic infrastructure, and allows connective access to our many parks, schools, and low income neighborhoods.

This project is an example of what the purpose outlined for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) is intended for. Please consider this letter as my endorsement for this project, and my personal gratitude for your consideration on this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "David Ewing", written over a white background.

David Ewing
Chief of Police



River Valley Ozarks Offroad Cyclists

February 20, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to express my support for Russellville's application for the FY 2023 RAISE Grant. I am a cyclist and President of a non-profit mountain biking organization, the River Valley Ozarks Offroad Cyclists (RVOORC) located in Russellville, Arkansas. RVOORC was founded in 2014 and has built and currently maintains several mountain bike trails in Russellville, Arkansas

Due to some cycling safety challenges in Russellville, in 2021, RVOORC took a more active role in advocating for cycling safety, education, and infrastructure improvements in Russellville. To help us better represent the local community, we championed an assembly of cycling leaders known as the Cycling Advocacy Council. This council has representation from all disciplines of cycling, and they periodically meet to discuss how to best serve the city of Russellville and assisted by making recommendations to city leaders.

It has been my experience that the leaders of Russellville are dedicated to creating a safe cycling and pedestrian environment that supports activities such as multi-use recreational greenway paths and share the road routes. Additionally, the leaders of Russellville understand the importance of safe commuting corridors between residential districts, businesses, schools, medical facilities, and the University.

The FY 2023 RAISE Grant will enable Russellville to undertake a critical project to expand the Russellville Connected Trails System by adding 12 miles of multi-use greenway infrastructure. This will enhance pedestrian and cyclists' safety by creating a protected commuting and recreational pathway, create job opportunities, and boost economic growth by having a more walkable and rideable community. This initiative will benefit the entire community and have a lasting impact on the quality of life in the area. The city staff and leadership team have identified the key priorities of the community and have put together a comprehensive plan to address them.

I highly recommend you consider Russellville's RAISE Grant application favorably. The community of Russellville has demonstrated its commitment to making a positive change, and this grant would be a significant boost toward achieving its goals.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Blake Slater - President
River Valley Ozarks Offroad Cyclists
Russellville, Arkansas

Saint Mary's Regional Health System
1808 West Main Street, Russellville AR 72801

February 26, 2023

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

RE: Letter of Support – Rebuilding American Infrastructure with
Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant. Russellville, AR

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing this letter of support for the RAISE Grant for Russellville Arkansas. As the CEO of Saint Mary's Regional Health System, I feel that this grant will improve the health of the Russellville community by providing a structured trail system with the city limits providing both a great opportunity for exercise but also enable many who are not able to travel throughout the city without walking on major roads and byways. Please find the follow informational items about Russellville's grant application:

- Successfully delivering this project would improve the safety, quality of life, economic competitiveness and opportunity for the City of Russellville, and creates system wide connectivity and mobility improvements by removing physical barriers for pedestrians and cyclists.
- A safe multi-modal environment that supports access to employment, healthcare, and daily necessities through the availability of alternate forms of transportation, the trail connects healthcare facilities, schools, the University, Grocery Stores, and our industrial district.
- This project is an example of what the purpose outlined for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) is intended for. To build scalable upgrades to create transportation corridors that are safe, available, and equitable for all.

Lastly, the RAISE grant will assist Saint Mary's Regional Health System meet our mission of Making Communities Healthier.

Sincerely,

Bob Honeycutt

Bob Honeycutt, CEO