



Tim Keller, Mayor

Greater Albuquerque Active Transportation Committee (GAATC)



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

May 13, 2024

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Bernalillo County is requesting Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program planning funds for the preliminary design of the Isleta Drain Trail, phase 1. The multi-use trail will provide an 11-mile-long spine connecting Albuquerque with several historic unincorporated communities in the South Valley. It will be the first multi-use trail to be constructed in the South Valley on the west side of the Rio Grande. The trail master plan, adopted in 2022, breaks the trail up into five segments, starting at Central Avenue in the north to Malpais Road in the south. The first phase will include the Atrisco and Arenal communities, about a 3.6-mile segment.

The Isleta Drain Trail will provide pedestrian and bicycle access within half a mile to dozens of key destinations including schools, parks and open space, community centers, health centers, retail and restaurants, and cultural sites. Trail access to adjoining transit routes can extend connections to major employment centers such as Downtown Albuquerque and the University of New Mexico. The trail project will provide substantial safety, health equity, sustainability, and economic benefits to disadvantaged South Valley communities.

GAATC supports Bernalillo County's efforts to design and construct a multi-use trail to increase active transportation in the South Valley.

Sincerely,

Aaron Hill, Chair
Greater Albuquerque Active Transportation Committee