



Tim Keller, Mayor

Greater Albuquerque Active Transportation Committee (GAATC)



TO: Secretary Pete Buttigieg
Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

April 12, 2022

Dear Secretary Pete Buttigieg and the RAISE Grant Merit Review Committee:

I am writing to express our sincere support of the Albuquerque Rail Trail. As the City of Albuquerque revitalizes our Downtown in the wake of COVID-19, it is vital to provide outdoor amenities, sustainable transportation alternatives, and increased connectivity to historic, cultural, recreational, and employment activities.

This project will enable the city to construct a multi-use trail that would add considerable value to the public and our community by:

- Increasing quality of life by creating a world class urban amenity and improving access to green space for Downtown communities and adjacent neighborhoods;
- Reducing the urban heat island effect by adding 165 trees to the Downtown core;
- Providing safe access to transit alternatives, such as Amtrak, the Albuquerque - Santa Fe regional commuter train (the Rail Runner), Albuquerque Rapid Transit (ART), and the Alvarado Transit Center; and,
- Increasing safe pedestrian and cyclist connectivity in and around Downtown, which will expand access to jobs, reduce parking demands as the region expands, decrease greenhouse gas emissions by promoting transportation alternatives, and improve community health.

Innovative, well-planned rail projects have proven to serve as an economic catalyst for other cities. This can provide the missing piece for Albuquerque's economic revival. Our organization wholeheartedly supports the City's grant application.

Respectfully,

Richard Meadows

Chair, Greater Albuquerque Active Transportation Committee (GAATC)