



Tim Keller, Mayor

Greater Albuquerque Bicycling Advisory Committee (GABAC)



TO: Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury
Office of the First Congressional District of New Mexico
1421 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

11 June 2021

Dear Congresswoman Stansbury,

I am writing on behalf of the City of Albuquerque's Greater Albuquerque Bicycling Advisory Committee (GABAC) to encourage your support and sponsorship of the Innovation Rail Trail Phase 2 and 3 T&I Earmark Requests prepared by the City of Albuquerque's Metropolitan Redevelopment Agency. The Rail Trail will create a vital outdoor amenity and improve pedestrian and bicycle networks in the Downtown area. The project will benefit Downtown and the surrounding neighborhoods by:

- Increasing access to local and regional transportation alternatives and thereby decreasing Albuquerque's carbon footprint;
- Providing rich and exciting outdoor urban amenities;
- Stimulating economic growth along the corridor;
- Reconnecting Downtown and its surrounding neighborhoods;
- Celebrating Albuquerque's rich cultural history and promoting a vision for our vibrant future;
- Drawing residents and visitors to Downtown;
- Linking dis-invested communities to the downtown employment.

This project is a necessary investment to catalyze Downtown growth and reinvigorate the local economy. Such an iconic and lively project is sure to become a destination for both New Mexicans and tourists alike. We hope you champion this project and ensure its funding is included in Congress's reauthorization bill.

Thank you for your support!

Richard Meadows

Richard Meadows
Chair, Greater Albuquerque Bicycling Advisory Committee (GABAC)



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

NOTE: The Metropolitan Redevelopment Agency has revised its RAISE grant application. On July 12, 2021, GAATC approved a new letter of support for the revised application.

11 June 2021

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

I am writing on behalf of the City of Albuquerque’s Greater Albuquerque Bicycling Advisory Committee (GABAC) to express our sincere support of the South Broadway to Rail Yards Pedestrian Bridge. As the City of Albuquerque revitalizes, historically preserves, and redevelops the Rail Yards, it is vital to increase access and connections to this historic site.

This project will add considerable value to the public and our community by:

- Offering a safe pedestrian and bicyclist connector between South Broadway, the Rail Yards, and Downtown;
- Providing access to transportation alternatives, such as the Albuquerque - Santa Fe regional commuter train (the Rail Runner), Albuquerque Rapid Transit (ART), and the Alvarado Transit Center;
- Connecting South Broadway to the Rail Trail, a multimodal linear park and trail network in design that would link the Rail Yards to the heart of Downtown Albuquerque;
- Increasing multimodal access to Downtown, which will expand access to jobs, reduce parking demands as the region expands, and decrease greenhouse gas emissions by promoting transit alternatives.

Albuquerque urgently needs to expand access points between the East and West side of the rail road tracks, bridge gaps between bicycle and pedestrian networks, and expand access to economic opportunities. This project serves all these needs and more. Therefore, our organization wholeheartedly supports the City’s grant application.

Respectfully,

Richard Meadows

Richard Meadows
Chair, Greater Albuquerque Bicycling Advisory Committee (GABAC)



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TO: Albuquerque Development Commission
Attn: Commissioners Mondragon, Miera, Ghattas, Carson, and Brunner

11 June 2021

Dear ADC Commissioners,

I am writing on behalf of the City of Albuquerque's Greater Albuquerque Bicycling Advisory Committee (GABAC) to express strong support for the proposed Springer Square Sky Bridge project. It's the explicit role of the City's Metropolitan Redevelopment Agency to support transformative projects for Albuquerque, and this project is a great example.

This project will add considerable value to the public by:

- connecting to the future Rail Trail;
- providing access to and from the Convention Center parking structure;
- developing a beautiful publicly-accessible plaza;
- unlocking new development and elevating the use of current surface parking lots for housing, retail, and hospitality.

We think that this project will unlock the kind of growth we desperately need downtown by requiring development of up to 140 market rate residential units. We believe Albuquerque needs more people living downtown in order to support revitalization and attract new businesses and services downtown.

We recognize the value of this catalytic project and believe the project is good for the future of downtown. We encourage you to recommend the Springer Square Sky Bridge project to the Albuquerque City Council.

Respectfully,

Richard Meadows

Richard Meadows
Chair, Greater Albuquerque Bicycling Advisory Committee (GABAC)