



June 29, 2021

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

Re: Support Letter for UTA's RAISE Planning Grant

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to commit Salt Lake City's partnership in the application submitted by the Utah Transit Authority (UTA) for a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) 2021 planning grant.


The proposed TRAX Realignment in Salt Lake City and University of Utah Research Park is envisioned as an extension of TRAX connections that link the western downtown area with the Research Park; two tech-district destinations undergoing dramatic redevelopment. These linkages will provide much needed system redundancy that will alleviate congestion in the mainline leading to improved air quality, increase operational options, allow for expansion of light rail service, and create connections for underserved communities to housing, educational, and employment opportunities throughout the corridor and UTA's service area.

As a project partner, Salt Lake City is committing a \$25,000 cash match toward the consultant services necessary for the proposed scope of work funded through a RAISE grant award. If selected, the award will leverage the local resources dedicated to the planning effort to produce a locally preferred alternative that supports the economic, mobility, and equity goals of Salt Lake City.

Federal assistance for the planning of these key rail network additions will ensure that future infrastructure investments enhance mobility along the Wasatch Front, meet the transit needs in areas of Salt Lake City that are experiencing unprecedented levels of redevelopment, and support the transportation future of Utah, which the 2020 census rates as the fastest growing state in the U.S.

Thank you for this opportunity for Salt Lake City to commit its support for UTA's RAISE 2021 planning grant request and to further the equitable transportation goals of my administration.

Sincerely,

  
Erin Mendenhall (Jun 30, 2021 22:47 MDT)

Mayor Erin Mendenhall

MAYOR ERIN MENDENHALL  
*Executive Director*



DANNY WALZ  
*Director*

**REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY of SALT LAKE CITY**

July 1, 2021

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

Re: Partner Support for UTA's RAISE Planning Grant

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Redevelopment Agency of Salt Lake City (RDA) is pleased to commit its partnership with Utah Transit Authority (UTA) for the TRAX Realignment in Salt Lake City and University of Utah. UTA's proposed transit planning project will further our collaborative efforts to expand connectivity for neighborhoods within the boundaries of multiple RDA's Community Reinvestment Areas (CRA) that are experiencing substantial economic disinvestment due to a lack of accessible and equitable transportation.

Transit connections are a cornerstone of the RDA's strategy to support thriving neighborhoods throughout Salt Lake City's urban core with expanded access to the economic engine of the Wasatch Front. The RDA has partnered with UTA on several high-impact transit projects, including the TRAX line expansion to the Salt Lake City International Airport, the addition of two TRAX stations in two of our CRAs, and a streetcar line connecting to UTA's main TRAX artery.

In its role as a core project partner, the RDA is committing a \$25,000 cash match toward UTA's planning project to be leveraged with a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) 2021 grant award. Progress toward a locally preferred alternative for new transit connections through downtown Salt Lake City, its adjacent Granary District, and the University of Utah Research Park will further the redevelopment goals for three of the RDA's active CRAs.

We look forward to the opportunity to partner with the U.S. Department of Transportation and the UTA project team to lay the ground work for increasing equitable and accessible transit in Utah. I can be contacted at [danny.walz@slcgov.com](mailto:danny.walz@slcgov.com) or 801-535-7209 should there be need to discuss the project or the RDA's match commitment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Danny Walz", with a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Danny Walz  
Director

July 1, 2021

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

Re: Letter of Support for UTA's United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Planning SLC TRAX Realignment to University of Utah's Research Park

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the University of Utah, I write in support of the application submitted by the Utah Transit Authority (UTA) for the 2021 RAISE planning proposal. Funds from this award request will be used to plan new projects to include extensions for the TRAX system through downtown Salt Lake City (SLC) and to the University of Utah. Additional track through the west side of the downtown SLC area will provide train traffic congestion relief as well as a new connection from the Ballpark Station to the Salt Lake Central area and a more direct connection to the University. An additional end-of-line extension at the University of Utah's Research Park allows for rail access to existing and extensive planned land uses, while relieving traffic congestion and improving air quality.

Along with our commitment to supporting the Planning Study with staff time and data resources, the University of Utah Research Park team is committed to budgeting \$200,000 in match dollars if selected to receive RAISE funds.

Transit projects are known to benefit local economies, improve local air quality, and help underserved and underrepresented groups. The new connection through downtown is expected to result in improved system performance by reducing the length of track shared by three lines. This proposal includes new stations adjacent to housing, retail, and community spaces. Added TRAX service on the west side of SLC will offer greater connection for underserved communities to educational and employment opportunities. The extension to Research Park connects the same populations and all of UTA's system to additional employment, education and housing opportunities. If selected, this award will provide the funding necessary to leverage local resources recently dedicated to this planning effort, and will result in a locally preferred alternative for the downtown connection and provide options for future extensions within the University of Utah campus.

Thank you for this opportunity to support the Utah Transit Authority's SCL TRAX Realignment Project.

Sincerely,



Jonathon Bates  
Executive Director



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

RE: Local Match Availability for the UTA TechLink Corridor Planning RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Utah Transit Authority (UTA) is applying for FY 2021 funding through the US Department of Transportation Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program for a planning project exploring new transit connections in Downtown Salt Lake City, including a link between the University of Utah's existing Research Park campus. The local non-federal amount listed in the application for this project is \$450,000 to support the RAISE request of \$950,000 for a total project cost of \$1.4 million.

The UTA, Salt Lake City (including the Redevelopment Agency), and the University of Utah have formed the TechLink Partnership and are providing match for the project. Salt Lake City has committed \$50,000 in match, and the University of Utah has committed \$200,000 in match. UTA's board of trustees and executive team have committed to budgeting an additional \$200,000 if selected to receive RAISE funds. These amounts are acceptable within UTA's long-range financial model. The \$450,000 in match equates to 32 percent local funding and 68 percent RAISE funding - exceeding the minimum required match for the RAISE program.

The funds from this award request will be used to plan new extensions and improved service. These improvements through downtown Salt Lake City (SLC) and at the University of Utah could offer more connections for underserved communities to educational and employment opportunities. These improvements will also help to meet the transit needs in an area of exceptional redevelopment and one of the fastest growing states in the U.S

Please contact me at (801) 287-3367 with any needs or questions. Thank you for your consideration of UTA's application.

Sincerely,



William Greene  
Chief Financial Officer