

**AUSTIN**

**OUTSIDE**

January 9, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The mission of Austin Outside is to champion outdoor places for all throughout Greater Austin. We're a coalition of nonprofits and businesses who believe in the power of our collective impact.

We are pleased to provide a letter of support for the City of Austin's application for a RAISE Transportation Grant that would provide funds for the construction of the ***Southeast Austin Connector Project***. This infrastructure modernization and connection project is comprised of the Bergstrom Spur Trail, South Pleasant Valley corridor, the Country Club Creek Trail extension.

The ***Southeast Austin Connector Project***:

- Greatly extends the City's urban trails network through the construction of the Bergstrom Spur Urban Trail and Country Club Creek Trail extension unlocking greater mileage of All Ages and Abilities infrastructure.
- Provides alternate transportation routes and easy commuting to and from work, the airport, employment hubs via active transportation which helps individuals and families offset impacts of gasoline inflation and soaring healthcare costs
- Aims to proactively address short- and long-term safety, mobility and connectivity needs within a historically underserved Austin community.
- Connects important thoroughfares enabling the City of Austin to address the community's mobility needs through a multi-modal lens, with infrastructure elements that promote safe and connected bike, pedestrian, transit and vehicular travel.
- By connecting Bergstrom Spur and Country Club Creek Trail, the South Pleasant Valley Extension links the Urban Trail network providing a crucial connection across SH 71 and allowing users south of the highway to access new trail investment and infrastructure such as the planned New Longhorn Dam Bridge
- Was supported by voters through the passing of the 2016, 2018 and 2020 transportation bonds.

We are pleased to support this important project nomination.

Sincerely,



Joanna Wolaver  
Board President