



Unity

ENGLEWOOD NATURE TRAIL

APPENDIX B

Letters of Support

United States Senate

June 13, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my support for the City of Chicago's application for the *Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program* (ATIIP) grant program, administered by the Department of Transportation. Funding from this program will establish an active transportation network that improves safety and provides a significant economic and cultural asset for an economically burdened community.

The community of Englewood sits exactly 63 blocks from the city of Chicago's downtown area. This neighborhood, which has an African American and Latinx population of more than 95%, has faced a profusion of issues including disinvestment and redlining that has resulted in Englewood's limited access to public transportation. Chicago's original Vision Zero Action Plan also identified Englewood as one of eight High Crash Areas within the city. The Englewood Nature Trail Project will create resilient active transportation infrastructure that protects the natural habitat along the Trail while improving quality of life in vulnerable communities through the delivery of connected active transportation networks and expanded mobility opportunities.

As a U.S. Senator representing Illinois, I have made it a priority to modernize Illinois' transportation infrastructure and improving access to public transportation in historically disinvested communities. The Englewood Nature Trail project will promote equitable economic development by facilitating access to transit and major commercial areas, schools, hospitals and parks in a regional area that is classified as disadvantaged by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool, developed by the White House through the Justice 40 program.

Please accept this letter of support for the City of Chicago's application for the *Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program* (ATIIP) grant program. In keeping with your existing rules and regulations, I urge you to give the application full and fair consideration. If you have any questions, please contact my Chicago Director, Stacey Berdejo at (312) 886-2525.

Sincerely,



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1304

June 18, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing regarding the City of Chicago's Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIP) grant application with the U.S. Department of Transportation for the Englewood Nature Trail Project. This project will establish an active transportation network that improves safety and provides a significant economic and cultural asset for an economically burdened community.

Elevated rates of traffic-related death and injury on Englewood's streets highlight the need for infrastructure for safe and active transportation. Chicago's original Vision Zero Chicago Action Plan identified Englewood as one of eight High Crash Areas within the city. Despite the current lack of active transportation infrastructure, there is opportunity to create the Englewood Nature Trail by converting an inactive rail line into an elevated 1.75-mile-long multiuse path that is completely separated from automobile traffic. This will improve safety and create an inviting space for travel and recreation.

The Englewood Nature Trail Project will create resilient, active transportation infrastructure that protects the surrounding natural habitat. This trail will also improve quality of life in vulnerable communities through the delivery of connected active transportation networks and expanded mobility opportunities. Beyond the benefit of promoting active transportation, this project will re-activate an economically burdened community, as classified by the USDOT Justice40 Initiative. The Englewood Nature Trail will also serve as the spine for the planned Englewood Agro-Eco District and will promote equitable economic development by facilitating access to transit and major commercial areas, schools, hospitals, and parks.

Please give full and fair consideration to the City of Chicago's application. If you require additional information, please contact my State Director, Clarisol Duque, at (312) 353-4952.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

JONATHAN L. JACKSON
1ST DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICA

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
NUTRITION, FOREIGN AGRICULTURE,
AND HORTICULTURE

COMMODITY MARKETS, DIGITAL ASSETS,
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515-1301
(202) 225-4372

CHICAGO
11750 S. WESTERN AVENUE
CHICAGO, IL 60643-2400
(773) 779-2400

June 10, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my full support for the City of Chicago's application for *Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP)* funding for the Englewood Nature Trail Project. The project will establish an active transportation network that improves safety and provides a significant economic and cultural asset for an economically burdened community. This project is community-led and supports the City's initiative to establish a connected network of trails and corridors that fosters community, wellness, climate resilience, and economic growth, while providing public spaces for residents.

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We thank you for your careful review of this application and urge you to provide *Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program* funding for Englewood Nature Trail Project.

Sincerely,



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress

CAPITOL OFFICE:

417 CAPITOL BUILDING
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706 217-
782-5966
FAX: 217-782-1631

DISTRICT OFFICES:

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STATE OF ILLINOIS



MATTIE HUNTER
ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER
STATE SENATOR- 3RD DISTRICT

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Appropriations-Public Safety &
Infrastructure.

May 29, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

This letter is written in support of the City of Chicago's application for Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP) funding for the Englewood Nature Trail Project. The project will establish an active transportation network that improves safety and provides a significant economic and cultural asset for an economically burdened community. This project is community-led and supports the City's initiative to establish a connected network of trails and corridors that fosters community, wellness, climate resilience, and economic growth, while providing public spaces for residents.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mattie Hunter".

Mattie Hunter
Assistant Majority Leader
Illinois State Senator
3rd Legislative District

Illinois House of Representatives

District Office:
2015 W 63rd Street
Chicago, IL 60609
Phone: (773) 925-6580
Fax: (773) 925-6584



Springfield Office:
276-S Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706
Phone: (217) 782-5971
Fax: (217) 558-6370

Sonya M. Harper
State Representative 6th District

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my full support for the City of Chicago's application for *Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program* (ATIIP) funding for the Englewood Nature Trail Project. The project will establish an active transportation network that improves safety and provides a significant economic and cultural asset for an economically burdened community. This project is community-led and supports the City's initiative to establish a connected network of trails and corridors that fosters community, wellness, climate resilience, and economic growth while providing public spaces for residents.

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We thank you for your careful review of this application and urge you to provide *Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program* funding for the Englewood Nature Trail Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sonya M. Harper".

Sonya M. Harper,
State Representative 6th District



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND HIGHWAYS

JENNIFER "SIS" KILLEN, P.E., PTOE

SUPERINTENDENT

69 West Washington Street, 24th Floor • Chicago, Illinois 60602 • (312) 603-1601

TONI PRECKWINKLE

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June 5, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Letter of support for City of Chicago's application for ATIIP for the Englewood Nature Trail

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my full support for the City of Chicago's application for Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP) funding for the Englewood Nature Trail Project. The project will establish an active transportation network that improves safety and provides a significant economic and cultural asset for an economically burdened community. This project is community-led and supports the City's initiative to establish a connected network of trails and corridors that fosters community, wellness, climate resilience, and economic growth, while providing public spaces for residents.

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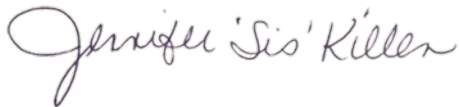
Page 2

Re: Letter of support for City of Chicago's application for ATIP for the Englewood Nature Trail

Cook County recently completed our first Countywide Bicycle Plan that focuses on creating a low stress network and addressing racial disparities in transportation. The Englewood Line Trail is an excellent example of exactly how projects can address both goals. Providing a new high comfort bicycle and pedestrian improvement while being very purposeful on spending funding to address historic inequities in the Englewood and surrounding communities.

We thank you for your careful review of this application and urge you to provide Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program funding for Englewood Nature Trail Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer 'Sis' Killen". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Jennifer "Sis" Killen, P.E., PTOE
Superintendent
Department of Transportation and Highways
Cook County, Illinois



June 6, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my full support for the City of Chicago's application for *Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP)* funding for the Englewood Nature Trail Project. The project will establish an active transportation network that improves safety and provides a significant economic and cultural asset for an economically burdened community. This project is community-led and supports the City's initiative to establish a connected network of trails and corridors that fosters community, wellness, climate resilience, and economic growth, while providing public spaces for residents.

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The Chicago Park District looks forward to being a partner agency, with assistance from the City of Chicago, on this project. The new Englewood Line Trail will enhance the quality of life in the community and will provide a safe, inviting, and sustainable open space which falls in line with the core mission of the Chicago Park District.

We thank you for your careful review of this application and urge you to provide *Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program* funding for Englewood Nature Trail Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rosa Escareño".

Rosa Escareño
General Superintendent and CEO

Administration Office
4830 S. Western Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60609
(312) 742-7529
www.chicagoparkdistrict.com

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Rosa Escareño

City of Chicago
Brandon Johnson
Mayor



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

433 West Van Buren Street
Suite 450
Chicago, IL 60607

312-454-0400
cmap.illinois.gov

June 4, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is pleased to support Chicago Department of Transportation's (CDOT) application for the Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP) Program for the Englewood Natural Trail Project. The project will establish an active transportation network that improves safety and provides a significant economic and cultural asset for an economically burdened community.

As the comprehensive regional planning organization of northeastern Illinois, CMAP is committed to supporting initiatives that will advance equity, support walkable communities, and improve safety for bicyclists and pedestrians. ON TO 2050, the region's comprehensive plan, emphasizes the importance of leveraging the transportation network to promote inclusive growth. The project would complement other revitalization activities focused on the Englewood neighborhood, which includes important social, economic, and natural assets.

Chicago's original Vision Zero Chicago Action Plan identified Englewood as one of eight High Crash Areas within the city, highlighting the need for investment in transportation safety infrastructure. The Englewood Nature Trail Project seeks to promote and ensure safe active transportation within Englewood by converting an inactive rail line into an elevated 1.75-mile multiuse path that is completely separated from automobile traffic. This will greatly improve safety and create an inviting space for travel and recreation.

CMAP has supported these efforts since partnering with the Chicago Department of Planning and Development on the initial development of the Green Healthy Neighborhoods plan in 2011. The Englewood Nature Trail will serve as the spine for the planned Englewood Agro-Eco District and will promote equitable economic development by facilitating access to transit and major commercial areas, schools, hospitals, and parks.

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Matthew Walsh

Non-voting Members

Abolfazl Mohammadian
Leanne Redden

Executive Director

Erin Aleman

The Hon. Pete Buttigieg

June 4, 2024

Page 2

Once again, CMAP is supportive of CDOT's application for the Englewood Nature Trail Project. Investments in a resilient active transportation network will improve quality of life in Englewood and surrounding communities, strengthen safe travel options, and enhance access to economic opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erin Aleman', with a long, sweeping underline.

Erin Aleman
Executive Director

EA:KH

June 4, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my full support for the City of Chicago's application for *Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP)* funding for the Englewood Nature Trail Project. The project will establish an active transportation network that improves safety and provides a significant economic and cultural asset for an economically burdened community. This project is community-led and supports the City's initiative to establish a connected network of trails and corridors that fosters community, wellness, climate resilience, and economic growth, while providing public spaces for residents.

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We thank you for your careful review of this application and urge you to provide *Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program* funding for Englewood Nature Trail Project.

Sincerely,



Chris Conley
Interim CEO & Vice President
Metropolitan Planning Council

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Old National Bancorp
Katherine M. Scherer
Deloitte LLP
Scott Swanson
PNC Illinois
Stephan B. Tanda
AptarGroup, Inc.



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May 29, 2004

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Active Transportation Alliance is fully supportive of the City of Chicago's application for *Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program* (ATIIP) funding for the Englewood Nature Trail Project. The project will establish an active transportation network that improves safety and provides a significant economic and cultural asset for an economically burdened community. This project is community-led and supports the City's plan to establish a connected network of trails and corridors that fosters community, wellness, climate resilience, and economic growth through public spaces for residents.

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We're excited about the recreational opportunities, transportation access, and a connection to nature that the Englewood Line Trail will provide the residents of Englewood and the surrounding communities. With a sharp focus on underutilized sites like the Englewood Line, this initiative will accelerate neighborhood revitalization and development. The Englewood Line Trail will truly be a unique experience for the residents of Englewood and the surrounding communities.

The Active Transportation Alliance fully supports this application and looks forward to the project's successful implementation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Rynell", written in a cursive style.

Amy Rynell, Executive Director

May 28, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my full support for the City of Chicago's application for *Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program* (ATIIP) funding for the Englewood Nature Trail Project. The project will establish an active transportation network that improves safety and provides a significant economic and cultural asset for an economically burdened community. This project is community-led and supports the City's initiative to establish a connected network of trails and corridors that fosters community, wellness, climate resilience, and economic growth, while providing public spaces for residents.

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We thank you for your careful review of this application and urge you to provide *Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program* funding for Englewood Nature Trail Project.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

317E03D3654C4DB...

Katonja Webb Walker, EdD
President



May 27, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my full support for the City of Chicago's application for *Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program* (ATIIP) funding for the Englewood Nature Trail Project. The project will establish an active transportation network that improves safety and provides a significant economic and cultural asset for an economically burdened community. This project is community led and supports the City's initiative to establish a connected network of trails and corridors that fosters community, wellness, climate resilience, and economic growth, while providing public spaces for residents.

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Grow Greater Englewood (GGE) is a social enterprise Food and Land Sovereignty organization working to ensure healthy and productive living in the Southwest Region of Chicago. GGE is engaged in urban farming, open space strategies and recently established a Community Land Trust organization.

We thank you for your careful review of this application and urge you to provide *Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program* funding for Englewood Nature Trail Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. A. Seals".

L. Anton Seals, Jr.
Lead Steward (Executive Director)
Grow Greater Englewood



GROWING HOME

...

5/30/2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my full support for the City of Chicago's application for *Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program* (ATIIP) funding for the Englewood Nature Trail Project. The project will establish an active transportation network that improves safety and provides a significant economic and cultural asset for an economically burdened community. This project is community-led and supports the City's initiative to establish a connected network of trails and corridors that fosters community, wellness, climate resilience, and economic growth, while providing public spaces for residents.

Elevated rates of traffic-related death and injury on Englewood's streets highlight the lack of infrastructure for safe active transportation, as well as the need for it. Chicago's original *Vision Zero Chicago Action Plan* identified Englewood as one of eight High Crash Areas within the city. Despite the current lack of active transportation infrastructure, there is opportunity. The Englewood Nature Trail Project seeks to promote and ensure safe active transportation within Englewood by converting an inactive rail line into an elevated 1.75 mile-long multi use path that is completely separated from automobile traffic. This will greatly improve safety and create an inviting space for travel and recreation.

The Englewood Nature Trail Project will create resilient active transportation infrastructure that protects the natural habitat along the Trail while improving quality of life in vulnerable communities through the delivery of connected active transportation networks and expanded mobility opportunities. Beyond the benefit of promoting active transportation, this project will re-activate an economically burdened community as classified by the USDOT Justice40 Initiative. The Englewood Nature Trail will serve as the spine for the planned Englewood Agro-Eco District and will promote equitable economic development by facilitating access to transit and major commercial areas, schools, hospitals, and parks.

Growing Home is a USDA-Certified Organic non-profit urban farm and social enterprise located in the Englewood neighborhood of Chicago. Our vision, as a key part of our Theory of Change, is to contribute to an equitable system of resources and opportunities that empower our communities, specifically as it relates to employment and food access. Since moving to Englewood in 2006, Growing Home has continually responded to our community, and become a key community resource, hub and partner with additional local organizations

At Growing Home, we believe in the safe and inspiring development of both the Englewood community and its infrastructure. This trail will serve as a vital resource for the community, offering residents a natural, biodiverse walk. The execution of this trial will not only bring people closer to nature but will also complement Growing Home's capital campaign expansion project for Food



GROWING HOME

...

Access and Workforce Development. A portion of the trail runs alongside our campus project, providing a perfect way for our participants to relax and rejuvenate in nature. Trails often become community hubs where neighbors can meet, fostering a sense of community and social interaction and can also provide opportunities for educational activities for our participants such as nature walks, bird watching and learning about local flora and fauna. This trail impacts not just the surrounding current community but also inspires the future of Englewood.

We thank you for your careful review of this application and urge you to provide *Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program* funding for Englewood Nature Trail Project.

In Gratitude,

Janelle St. John
Executive Director
Growing Home, Inc.

Growing Home is a recognized non-profit organization, 501(c)(3), in the state of Illinois.



May 31, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my full support for the City of Chicago's application for *Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP)* funding for the Englewood Nature Trail Project. The project will establish an active transportation network that improves safety and provides a significant economic and cultural asset for an economically burdened community. This project is community-led and supports the City's initiative to establish a connected network of trails and corridors that fosters community, wellness, climate resilience, and economic growth, while providing public spaces for residents.

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We thank you for your careful review of this application and urge you to provide *Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program* funding for Englewood Nature Trail Project.

Sincerely,

Felicia Slaton-Young, Co-Founder & Executive Director
Greater Englewood Chamber of Commerce & GE Chamber Foundation
fyoung@gechamber.com

Greater Englewood Chamber of Commerce & GE Chamber Foundation

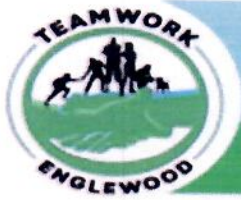
825 W. 69th St.

2nd Fl.

Chicago, IL 60621

Phone: 312.768-8573

connect@geccf.org



CONVENE.

CONNECT.

IMPACT.

815 W. 63rd Street, 2nd Floor, Chicago IL 60621 • Phone: (773) 488-6600 • Fax: (773) 488-6601
www.teamworkenglewood.org www.englewoodportal.org

June 4, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my full support for the City of Chicago's application for Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP) funding for the Englewood Nature Trail Project. The project will establish an active transportation network that improves safety and provides a significant economic and cultural asset for an economically burdened community. This project is community-led and supports the City's initiative to establish a connected network of trails and corridors that fosters community, wellness, climate resilience, and economic growth, while providing public spaces for residents.

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Our organization convenes the Englewood Quality of Life Plan. The plan brings together residents, elected officials, and stakeholders to plan for a better future for the community. Residents have identified the trail as an important project to improve public safety and development for the community. And is community driven.

We thank you for your careful review of this application and urge you to provide Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program funding for Englewood Nature Trail Project.

Sincerely,

Cecile De Mello

Executive Director



May 28, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my full support for the City of Chicago's application for *Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program* (ATIIP) funding for the Englewood Nature Trail Project. The project will establish an active transportation network that improves safety and provides a significant economic and cultural asset for an economically burdened community. This project is community-led and supports the City's initiative to establish a connected network of trails and corridors that fosters community, wellness, climate resilience, and economic growth, while providing public spaces for residents.

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E.G. Woode, as an organization dedicated to supporting the revitalization of neglected neighborhoods through real estate and small business development, thanks you for your careful review of this application and urges you to provide *Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program* funding for Englewood Nature Trail Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Deon Lucas'.

Deon Lucas
President
E.G. Woode, L3C



Date: June 4, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear: Secretary Buttigieg:

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We thank you for your careful review of this application and urge you to provide *Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program* funding for Englewood Nature Trail Project.

Sincerely,

Gloria Williams

Gloria Williams
Founder/Executive Director