



# SAN JUAN COUNTY COMMISSION

Jamie Harvey                      Chairman  
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January 6, 2024

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

**Subject: Letter of Support for the 2024 RAISE Grant Application for the Utah Trail Network Four Corners Trail Planning Study**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Board of San Juan County Commissioners expresses our support for the Utah Trail Network Four Corners Planning Study Grant Application and overall project. In 2023, the Utah State Legislature tasked the Utah Department of Transportation with building, operating, and maintaining a statewide network of paved, shared-use trails. The vision is that this network will provide all Utahns with a transportation option that is safe, equitable, and sustainable.

The Four Corners Planning Study is focused on the part of the network that will provide connectivity between rural communities in Southern Utah and on the Navajo Nation. These communities are historically disadvantaged, have high rates of poverty, have low rates of vehicle ownership, and a significant percentage of households have at least one person with a disability. Two-lane state highways provide the primary connectivity in this area, but most have minimal shoulders, which creates uncomfortable and unsafe conditions for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other nonmotorized users. This planning study will lay the groundwork to provide these under-served communities with a transportation network that provides equitable connectivity and mobility to individuals who cannot access or choose not to own a vehicle. This project will also help promote community and environmental health by reducing vehicle miles traveled and emissions while providing a safe space for active transportation users.

In addition to the equity and safety considerations, this project will also help drive economic opportunity. A portion of U.S. Route 191 in the study area is a designated U.S. Bicycle Route that brings regional and national travelers through the area. The proposed route in this study serves important recreational destinations, such as Bears Ears National Monument; Moab, Utah; the San Juan River; and Monument Valley in the Navajo Nation in Arizona, and it will provide an additional draw for tourism which will generate economic benefits. This planning study will actively engage with local and regional stakeholders, work to identify and understand community needs, and provide solutions that fit within the local community context.

This planning study meets the RAISE program criteria and has strong community support. I fully support this important project and ask for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

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Jamie Harvey  
Commission Chair