Appendix: Funding Commitment Letters



September 28, 2023

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

Re: Letter of Commitment

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The purpose of this letter is to confirm the City of Knoxville's funding commitment towards the Reconnecting Knoxville proposal for the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods program.

The City of Knoxville has committed funds to the project as shown below. In addition, the City has received funding through private sources to support the efforts.

East Knoxville Greenway: \$988,054 local funding Morningside Park: \$4,600,000 non-government local funding South Knoxville Bridge Connector: \$249,500 local funding Cottrell Greenway: \$144,000 non-government local funding Urban Wilderness Gateway Park: \$6,000,000 local funding

In addition, the City of Knoxville received State and Federal Funds to assist with several segments.

East Knoxville Greenway: \$3,952,216 Federal Funding South Knoxville Bridge Connector: \$798,000 Federal Funding, \$950,000 State Funding

These matching funds will be used to support the required 50% match towards the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods program.

Sincerely,

Indya Kincannon Mayor

THE SPORTS AUTHORITY knoxsportsauthority.com

September 28, 2023

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

Re: Letter of Commitment

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The purpose of this letter is to confirm the Knoxville-Knox County Sports Authority funding commitment towards the Reconnecting Knoxville proposal for the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods program.

The Knoxville-Knox County Sports Authority is currently building a multi-use stadium in downtown Knoxville and \$21 million of existing funding is planned to be used for exterior pathways, connections to existing and planned City infrastructure, and several exterior plaza areas. These funds are part of an overall commitment of \$114 million to construct a new multi-use stadium with a projected opening of 2025.

These matching funds will be used to support the required 50% match towards the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods program.

Alvin Nance, Chair Knoxville – Knox County Sports Authority



901 Broadway, N.E. • Knoxville, TN 37917-6699 865.403.1100 • Fax 865.594.0266 800.848.0298 (Tennessee Relay Center) www.kcdc.org

September 28, 2023

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

Re: Letter of Commitment

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The purpose of this letter is to confirm Knoxville's Community Development Corporation (KCDC) funding commitment towards the Reconnecting Knoxville proposal for the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods program.

KCDC is currently building First Creek at Austin Phase 2. The commitments in this letter are included in Phase 3 of the project which is planned to begin in 2024. Phase 3 will include 161 units of affordable housing, programmed park space for the Knoxville community, dog park, and greenway connections between the new East Knoxville Greenway and the Knoxville Downtown and Old City areas, including the new multi-use stadium. Phase 3 includes both pedestrian and vehicular connections over the channelized First Creek, a decision made during Urban Renewal to stop flooding in the former residential area.

KCDC is committing \$870,000 of non-government local funding and \$3,500,000 of local funding towards these new connections.

These matching funds will be used to support the required 50% match towards the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods program.

R. Petr

Benjamin Bentley Executive Director/CEO



Appendix: Letters of Support



September 25, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As Mayor of Knoxville, Tennessee, I enthusiastically endorse and gladly serve as a key partner in the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Program grant application. This application is being submitted by Knoxville's Community Development Corporation (KCDC) for the "Reconnecting Knoxville" Project in Knoxville, Tennessee.

You and I met at the U.S. Conference of Mayors in in January, 2019, and I have been following your career ever since. Leading Knoxville through the COVID pandemic and recovery has been a challenge, but you and the entire Biden administration have been supporting cities at every step. Thank you!

Our "Reconnecting Knoxville' project will invest in the *people* of our community who have been disenfranchised and disconnected for generations. We can't erase the harmful history of urban renewal, but we can make sure future investments repair those harms. That is what 'Reconnecting Knoxville' is all about.

This project includes the creation of new and improved multimodal transportation paths that provide much needed connections for underserved and disadvantaged populations. The connections proposed will reduce the impact of barriers created by major thoroughfares over the last fifty years and provide safe and healthy transportation alternatives.

I am grateful for the Biden administration's commitment to the Justice 40 initiative. If awarded, the 'Reconnecting Knoxville' project will enhance access to opportunity, fight climate change, and improve quality of life for some of our highest needs communities.

The City of Knoxville is making significant local investments in areas that will complement this proposal. I want to extend a personal invitation to you to visit Knoxville and view some of the progressive initiatives underway across our community.

Thank you for your consideration of this application and please let us know if we can be of any help, at any time, to you or the Administration.

Sincerely,

Indya Kincannon Mayor

CITY COUNTY BUILDING • ROOM 691 • 400 MAIN STREET • P.O. BOX 1631 • KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE 37901 PHONE: 865-215-2040 • FAX: 865-215-2085 • EMAIL: MAYOR@KNOXVILLETN.GOV WWW.KNOXVILLETN.GOV



STATE OF TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE SUITE 700, JAMES K. POLK BUILDING 505 DEADERICK STREET NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-1402 (615)741-2848

BUTCH ELEY DEPUTY GOVERNOR & COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORTATION BILL LEE GOVERNOR

October 6, 2022

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

Re: Key Partner Letter for the "Reconnecting Knoxville" Project – Knoxville, Tennessee 2022 Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to confirm our participation as a key partner in the Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) grant application. This application is being submitted by Knoxville's Community Development Corporation (KCDC) for the "Reconnecting Knoxville" Project in Knoxville Tennessee. The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) commits the use of the specified land for the purposes of providing public access as outlined in this proposal.

Through a separate letter attached to this application, TDOT has granted the partial use of James White Parkway to the City of Knoxville for the development of a greenway.

This project includes the creation of approximately 6 miles of new or improved multimodal transportation paths that will provide needed connections for the underserved and disadvantaged populations who live in this area. These connections will reduce the impact of barriers created by James White Parkway, Summit Hill Drive and Hill Avenue and provide safe and healthy transportation alternatives.

The land for the proposed project is owned by five entities, all key partners on the application – KCDC, the City of Knoxville, the Sports Authority Board, The Knoxville Science Museum, and the State of Tennessee. The proposed project will provide cohesive public access located within the 2020 US Census Tracts 1, 8, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 67 and 68 of the City and will serve populations that are historically disadvantaged and have census indicators that include transportation, health, economy, equity and environment disadvantages. The project will provide vital residential connections that will support the revitalization of this area of the City of Knoxville while increasing the quality of life of those who live here.

I am confident that this proposal firmly aligns with the values and goals of the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program and I thank you for your consideration.

Hol Hilleys

Howard H. Eley Commissioner of Transportation

Lindsey Kimble Executive Director Bike Walk Knoxville 903 Windgate St. Knoxville, TN 37919



September 11, 2023

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

Re: Support for the "Reconnecting Knoxville" Project Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Program Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to demonstrate my support and petition that you give consideration to the referenced Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Program application. This application is being submitted by Knoxville's Community Development Corporation (KCDC) and their partners for the "Reconnecting Knoxville" Project in Knoxville, Tennessee.

This project would install multi-modal pathways, pedestrian/bike friendly corridors, and park areas from East Knoxville to Hall of Fame Drive, connecting to the Old City, moving down James White Park and ending at the Baker Creek Preserve. With a goal of connecting existing projects through filling in gaps in access, adding bike lanes and widening sidewalks along key roadways, this project has the potential to dramatically improve safety and accessibility for those walking, biking, and living in this area of Knoxville. The project would also install a cultural corridor, which is supported by the Beck Cultural Exchange Center, a local nonprofit organization where Black history and culture are preserved, nurtured, taught, and continued.

The proposed project is located within the 2020 US Census Tracts 1, 8, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 67 and 68 of the City and will serve populations that are historically disadvantaged and have census indicators that include transportation, health, economy, equity and environment disadvantages. The project would provide critical residential connections

that will support the revitalization of this area of the City of Knoxville, while simultaneously improving quality of life for those who live, work, and play there.

The project is broadly supported in this region, and represents a combined effort of KCDC, the City of Knoxville, Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), and Knoxville community groups and organizations.

Please contact me if you have questions or need additional information regarding my support for this Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Program application.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Kimble Executive Director Bike Walk Knoxville

Tiffani Toombs City of Knoxville African American Equity Restoration Taskforce 400 Main Street Knoxville, TN 37902

September 27, 2023

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

Re: Reconnecting Communities Letter of Support

Secretary Buttigieg:

The City of Knoxville, like many other cities across our country, experienced the plight of Urban Renewal and the residual scars that impacted mainly communities of color. From 1959 to 1974, Knoxville's African American community lost 107 Black owned businesses, 15 Black churches, and more than 2,500 residents were displaced. These losses, although decades ago, are still felt to this day and are evidenced by disproportionately high poverty rates and low homeowner rates within our Black community.

This is a need that has been recognized and we have started taking steps to remedy the inequities that are present in our city. In December of 2020, our City Council unanimously voted to create the African American Equity Restoration Taskforce (AAERT). The Resolution offered an apology on behalf of the City to all who were impacted by Urban Renewal and also commissioned the AAERT to secure \$100M over a ten year process to be invested into the Black community. This body, consisting of eleven appointed members, has been hard at work identifying opportunities that align with our purpose which is why we were so excited to learn about the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program.

We believe that this endeavor has the ability to aid our mission of restoring opportunity back to our community. We are hopeful that this initiative will benefit residents by advancing connectivity and also advancing the quality of life of our current residents.

Thank you for your consideration of Knoxville.

Best regards,

agm/1)

Tiffani Toombs African American Equity Restoration Taskforce- Grant Specialist



Beck Cultural Exchange Center African American History & Culture

1927 DANDRIDGE AVENUE | KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE 37915 | (865) 524-8461 EMAIL: BECKCENTER@BECKCENTER.NET | WWW.BECKCENTER.NET

September 22, 2023

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

Re: Support for the "Reconnecting Knoxville" Project **RCP Grant Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As the president of the Beck Cultural Exchange Center, I am writing to demonstrate my support and petition that you give consideration to the referenced Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) grant application. This application is being submitted by Knoxville's Community Development Corporation (KCDC) and we are pleased to serve as a partner along with other organizations for the "Reconnecting Knoxville" Project in Knoxville Tennessee.

This project includes the creation of approximately 6 miles of new or improved multimodal transportation paths that will provide needed connections for the underserved and disadvantaged populations who live in this area. These connections will reduce the impact of barriers created by James White Parkway, Summit Hill Drive and Hill Avenue and provide safe and healthy transportation alternatives. Moreover, Beck was established in 1975 as a result of the impact of Knoxville's urban renewal projects that uprooted and nearly destroyed the Black community. Beck is the only state-designated repository for Black history and culture in East Tennessee. Beck will work alongside KCDC through the Beck Cultural Corridor to change the perception of Knoxville's African American history so that it is seen not as something marginal or unconnected, but rather central to the understanding of who we are as a community, as a nation, and as human beings. In so doing, the result will be a transformation that enhances the public reckoning of history and connects it to the present.

The proposed project is located within the 2020 US Census Tracts 1, 8, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 67 and 68 of the City and will serve populations that are historically disadvantaged and have census indicators that include transportation, health, economy, equity and environment disadvantages. The project will provide vital residential connections that will support the revitalization of this area of the City of Knoxville while increasing the quality of life of those who live here.

The project is broadly supported in this region and a combined effort of KCDC, the City of Knoxville, Tennessee Department of Transportation, and Knoxville community groups.

Please contact me if you have questions or need additional information regarding my support for this Reconnecting Communities Pilot Programs (RCP) grant application.

Thank you for your consideration.

Peace, **Reverend Reneé Kesler** Beck Cultural Exchange Center, President



Empowering Communities. Changing Lives. 1514 East Fifth Avenue Knoxville, Tennessee 37917 Phone: 865-524-5511 Fax: 865-525-5154 info@thekaul.org www.thekaul.org

September 27, 2023

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

SUBJECT: Support for the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Program

Secretary Buttigieg:

My name is Charles F. Lomax Jr., and I am the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Knoxville Area Urban League (KAUL). It is with a great sense of enthusiasm that I convey our organization's endorsement of Knoxville's Community Development Corporation's grant application for the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Program. This opportunity would be of great benefit to our community and has a broad range of support from community members, community serving organizations, as well as local government.

The City of Knoxville, like many other cities across our county, was negatively impacted as a result of Urban Renewal. That process destroyed homes and thriving businesses, and created a physical divide between racial and economic communities with the insertion of an interstate. The economic and social impacts are still evident decades later. This grant and the proposals therein are steps toward healing that divide and providing needed connections to communities that contain underserved and disadvantaged populations.

As an affiliate of the National Urban League (NUL), an esteemed institution founded in 1910, dedicated to empowering marginalized communities, KAUL is steadfast in our commitment to fostering equal opportunities across all societal facets. Our principles align with the belief that every individual should have unfettered prospects to reach their fullest potential. Education, entrepreneurship, health, housing, jobs, and justice are the pillars which support our mission. Connected communities will improve outcomes in each of these areas and will help us in carrying out our mission.

The Knoxville Area Urban League eagerly anticipates its role in nurturing the growth of our community as a result of the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Program. We are excited to be a partner in fostering inclusive access, opportunities, and benefits for every stratum of our community.

We sincerely appreciate your consideration of our endorsement and remain at your disposal should you require any additional information.

Enthusiastically,

Charles F. Lomax Jr., D.

President and Chief Executive Officer Knoxville Area Urban League



Community Partner



September 5, 2023

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

Re: Support for the "Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods" Program RCN Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing in support of the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) grant application submitted by Knoxville's Community Development Corporation (KCDC) and their partners for the "Reconnecting Knoxville" Project in Knoxville Tennessee.

This project includes the creation of approximately 6 miles of new or improved multimodal transportation paths that will provide needed connections for the underserved and disadvantaged populations who live in this area. These connections will reduce the impact of barriers created by James White Parkway, Summit Hill Drive and Hill Avenue and provide safe and healthy transportation alternatives.

The proposed project is located within the 2020 US Census Tracts 1, 8, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 67 and 68 of the City and will serve populations that are historically disadvantaged and have census indicators that include transportation, health, economy, equity and environment disadvantages. The project will provide vital residential connections that will support the revitalization of this area of the City of Knoxville while increasing the quality of life of those who live here.

On behalf of Legacy Parks Foundation, we urge you to fund this application significant and far-reaching positive impact on our community.

Sincerely,

Carol Evans

Carol Evans Executive Director

Board of Directors
Cathy Ackermann
Brandon Bruce
Bart Carey
Nicki Collett
Dave Collins
Shervl Elv

Duane GrieveJoe MackJenny HinesBill MasonMarv HouseJulie MoulRocio HuetJeremy NelsonLarsen JayDon ParnellDavid LongCecilia Petersen

Joe Petre Todd Skelton Will Skelton Charlie Thomas Chris Trump Chad Youngblood **Board of Advisors** John Becker Pete Claussen Steve Fritts Missy Kane

Mark Mamantov David Martin Cassandra Stuart Sharon Pryse Ken Rueter Tommy Schumpert Susan Richardson Williams

900 Volunteer Landing Lane | Knoxville, TN 37915 | p 865.525.2585 | f 866.735.2527 | LegacyParks.org

September 25, 2023

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



Re: Support for the "Reconnecting Knoxville" Project RCN Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to demonstrate our organizational support and urge you to give every consideration to the referenced Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) grant application. This application is being submitted by Knoxville's Community Development Corporation (KCDC) and their partners for the "Reconnecting Knoxville" Project in Knoxville Tennessee.

This project includes the creation of approximately 6 miles of new or improved multimodal transportation paths that will provide needed connections for the underserved and disadvantaged populations who live in this area. These connections will reduce the impact of barriers created by James White Parkway, Summit Hill Drive and Hill Avenue and provide safe and healthy transportation alternatives.

This critical connection project provides new forms of access to the Knoxville Botanical Garden & Arboretum, a 47-acre public garden situated in the heart of East Knoxville, a community that is notably impacted by transportation, health, economy, equity and environment disadvantages. The RCN project will allow safe pedestrian and bicycle access from neighborhood schools and residences to the gardens, which offer educational garden spaces, as well as areas for respite and physical activity.

We join our organizational voice with the broad community support for the RCN program, for its benefit to residents and to organizations like ours that will be better positioned to engage the community as a result of increased accessibility and connectivity created by the program.

Please contact me, sharon@knoxgarden.org, if you have questions or need additional information regarding my support for this Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Program (RCN) grant application.

Thank you for your consideration.

oon Sharon Moore

Executive Director Knoxville Botanical Garden & Arboretum



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

Re: Support for the "Reconnecting Knoxville" Project RCN Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to demonstrate my support and petition that you give consideration to the referenced Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) grant application. This application is being submitted by Knoxville's Community Development Corporation (KCDC) and their partners for the "Reconnecting Knoxville" Project in Knoxville Tennessee.

This project includes the creation of approximately 6 miles of new or improved multimodal transportation paths that will provide needed connections for the underserved and disadvantaged populations who live in this area. These connections will reduce the impact of barriers created by James White Parkway, Summit Hill Drive and Hill Avenue and provide safe and healthy transportation alternatives.

The Change Center has been a supporter of this project from the very beginning. We provide first job opportunities and workforce development for inner city high school students while also providing a safe space and recreation for youth and young adults. Our neighborhood has been plagued with transportation difficulties and inferior infrastructure for decades, so the completion of the "Reconnecting Knoxville" would do a lot for restoring equity to our community. It also would positively impact the Change Center by increasing ease of access to our facility and allowing us to serve even more people.

The project is broadly supported in this region and a combined effort of KCDC, the City of Knoxville, Tennessee Department of Transportation, and Knoxville community groups.

Please contact me if you have questions or need additional information regarding my support for this Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Program (RCN) grant application.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Matthew Best Executive Director The Change Center

203 Harriet Tubman Street Knoxville, TN 37915





September 25, 2023

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

Re: Support for the "Reconnecting Knoxville" Project RCP Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to enthusiastically endorse the City of Knoxville's participation as a key partner in the Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Program grant application. This application is being submitted by Knoxville's Community Development Corporation (KCDC) and we are pleased to serve as a partner along with other organizations for the "Reconnecting Knoxville" Project in Knoxville Tennessee.

This project includes the creation of new and improved multimodal transportation paths that provide much needed connections for underserved and disadvantaged populations. The connections proposed will reduce the impact of barriers created by major thoroughfares over the last fifty years and provide safe and healthy transportation alternatives. This project will serve populations that are historically disadvantaged and have census indicators that include transportation, health, economy, equity and environmental disadvantages.

Please contact me if you have questions or need additional information regarding my support for the RCP grant application.

Anny & Brooks

Amy Brooks, AICP, CPM Executive Director

TIM BURCHETT

WASHINGTON OFFICE: 1122 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515–4202 (202) 225–5435

> DISTRICT OFFICES: 800 Market Street, Suite 110 Knoxville, TN 37902 Phone: (865) 523–3772 Fax: (865) 544–0728

331 Court Street Maryville, TN 37804 Phone: (865) 984–5464 Fax: (865) 984–0521

https://burchett.house.gov

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515–4202

September 20, 2023

COMMITTEES:

Committee on Foreign Affairs

SUBCOMMITTEES: Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia — Vice Chair Oversight and Accountability

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

SUBCOMMITTEES:

Aviation Highways and Transit Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials

> Committee on Oversight and Accountability

SUBCOMMITTEES: Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Government Innovation Government Operations and the Federal Workforce

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of the Knoxville Community Development Corporation's (KCDC) application for the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Program.

The proposed project is broadly supported by the community and is a combined effort of KCDC, the City of Knoxville, the Tennessee Department of Transportation, and Knoxville community groups. The project will improve current multimodal transportation paths, as well as create new ones in several areas with historically underserved populations.

The goal of the proposal is to reduce the impact of barriers created by James White Parkway, Summit Hill Drive, and Hill Avenue and provide safe transportation alternatives between major local capital investments. This project will provide vital residential connections that will support the continued economic revitalization of Knoxville while increasing the quality of life.

I ask that you give the Knoxville Community Development Corporation's application all due consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff.

Tim Burchett Member of Congress

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 27, 2023

U.S. Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE W84-322 Washington, DC 20590

Dear Grant Review Team,

I write today in support Knoxville Community Development Corporation's (KCDC) application for their multi-model transportation and connections project. KCDC has informed me that the project will improve current multimodal transportation paths, as well as creating new connections, in nine Census tracts in the City of Knoxville. The project will also provide safe and healthy transportation alternatives between major local capital investments such as the river waterfront, downtown district, and new stadium.

I thank you in advance for your careful consideration of Knoxville Community Development Corporation's application. Please contact my office at (202) 224-4944 should you have any questions.

A.II Haya

Bill Hagerty United States Senator