

APPENDIX D LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Letters of Financial Commitment

- Invest Atlanta Eastside TAD Funding Resolution
- Atlanta Downtown Improvement District Funding Commitment Resolution

Letters of Support

Elected Officials

- Senator Jon Ossoff
- Senator Raphael Warnock
- Congresswoman Nikema Williams
- Representative Stacey Evans
- Georgia Transportation Board Member Stacey Key
- Atlanta City Council President Doug Shipman
- Atlanta City Council District 2 Representative Amir Farokhi

Agencies

- Georgia Department of Transportation
- Atlanta Department of Transportation
- Atlanta Regional Commission
- Atlanta Housing
- CobbLinc
- Gwinnett County Transit

Local Stakeholder & Partner Organizations

- Atlanta Downtown Neighborhood Association
- Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Atlanta Land Trust
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta
- Fourth Ward West
- Georgia Conservancy
- Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce
- Neighborhood Planning Unit M
- Path Foundation
- Preservation Center
- Propel Atlanta
- Southern Environmental Law Center
- Southface Institute
- Trees Atlanta
- Trust for Public Land
- The Urban Land Institute of Atlanta

Adjacent Property Owners

- Atlanta First United Methodist Church
- Braden Fellman Group
- CP Group
- Drapac Capital Partners
- Emory University Hospital Midtown
- Evergreen Real Estate Group
- The Fox Theatre
- Gamma Real Estate
- The Integral Group
- Kaplan Residential
- Portman Holdings
- St. Luke's Episcopal Church
- Zeller

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ATLANTA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY D/B/A "INVEST ATLANTA" AUTHORIZING A GRANT TO THE CITY OF ATLANTA FROM THE EASTSIDE TAX ALLOCATION DISTRICT ("ETAD") SPECIAL FUND TO FINANCE A PORTION OF THE PRE-CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES COSTS NECESSARY FOR "THE STITCH" PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT IN THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED TEN MILLION DOLLARS (\$10,000,000); AUTHORIZING A FUNDING LETTER OR OTHER AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY MEMORIALIZING THE GRANT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, The Atlanta Development Authority d/b/a Invest Atlanta ("Invest Atlanta") has been duly created and is existing under and by virtue of the Constitution and the laws of the State of Georgia (the "State"), in particular, the Development Authorities Law of the State (O.C.G.A. §36-62-1 *et seq.*, as amended) and an activating resolution of the City Council of the City of Atlanta, Georgia (the "City"), duly adopted on February 17, 1997, and approved by the Mayor of the City on February 20, 1997, and is now existing and operating as a public body corporate and politic of the State; and

WHEREAS, to encourage the redevelopment of the eastern downtown area of the City, the City Council, by City Ordinance 03-O-1840, adopted on December 1, 2003 and approved by the Mayor on December 9, 2003, as amended (the "Eastside TAD Ordinance"), among other things, (i) created "Tax Allocation District Number Five – Eastside" (the "Eastside TAD"), (ii) adopted the Eastside TAD Redevelopment Plan and (iii) designated Invest Atlanta as the City's redevelopment agent for the Eastside TAD, all as provided for under Redevelopment Powers Law, O.C.G.A. § 36-44-1, *et seq.*, as amended (the "Act"); and

WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta created the Eastside TAD, in part, to improve the quality of life in downtown Atlanta and adjacent communities the development of a vibrant public realm with quality civic infrastructure and interconnected open spaces that contribute to improved public health and wellness; and

WHEREAS, "The Stitch" is a proposal to construct public infrastructure over the section of Interstate 75/85 (the Downtown Connector) in Atlanta's central business district between the Civic Center MARTA rail station at West Peachtree Street and Piedmont Avenue, located within the Eastside TAD (the "Project"). This infrastructure Project to "cap the connector" will unite the two sides of downtown currently bifurcated by I-75/85 with a

¾-mile long, 14- acre series of elevated, interconnected parks, plazas, walking trails and new street connections; and

WHEREAS, among many anticipated benefits, the Stitch presents a tremendous opportunity to spur new land uses on adjacent and nearby sites that are currently underutilized and blighted by the impacts of exposure to the interstate highway; and

WHEREAS, the value-add from the new public infrastructure created by The Stitch has the potential to increase property tax revenues by spurring development on adjacent sites; and

WHEREAS, the City and the Atlanta Downtown Improvement District (“ADID”) have already secured over \$4 million in funding to support initial planning and concept design for The Stitch. The next step to advance the project is to complete preliminary project engineering – a scope of work totaling \$21 million; and

WHEREAS, the City requests a \$10M grant from the Eastside TAD to be utilized as 50/50 match funding for a USDOT Reconnecting Communities Pilot Grant Program application, due October 13th, 2022. The \$10M from the Eastside TAD will be combined with \$500k from ADID to leverage \$10.5 million from the grant program, securing the total need of \$21M in funding to complete preliminary engineering activities for the Stitch.; and

WHEREAS, Invest Atlanta staff has reviewed the application from the City and found the Project to be within the scope of the Eastside TAD Redevelopment Plan, impactful and worthy of a grant from the Eastside TAD Special Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of Invest Atlanta, after full review and consideration of the recommendations of the Invest Atlanta staff, has determined that it is in the best interest of Invest Atlanta to approve funding for the Project to the City of Atlanta from the Eastside TAD Special Fund in an amount not to exceed Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000).

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors of Invest Atlanta, and it is hereby resolved by the authority of the same as follows:

Section 1. **Authority**. This Resolution is adopted pursuant to the Development Authorities Law of Georgia (O.C.G.A. §36-62-1, *et seq.*, as amended), and other applicable provisions of law.

Section 2. **Approval of Funding of the Project.** Invest Atlanta hereby authorizes and approves the funding to the City of Atlanta from the Eastside TAD Special Fund, in an amount not to exceed Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000) (the "Project Allocation"), to fund a portion of the construction and installation of "The Stitch" public infrastructure project in the central business district within the ETAD. The Project Allocation is hereby approved, subject to certain conditions being met by the Developer, which shall be memorialized in a Funding Letter or other Agreement.

Section 3. **Approval to Negotiate Execute and Deliver the Development Agreement.** Invest Atlanta hereby authorizes the Chair, Vice Chair or President/CEO, Executive Vice President/COO or General Counsel of Invest Atlanta to negotiate, execute and deliver the Development Agreement, in a form deemed satisfactory to such officer and legal counsel to Invest Atlanta, setting forth the terms and conditions relating to the Eastside TAD funding support of the Project and all instruments, documents and certificates related thereto.

Section 4. **General Authority.** It is hereby ratified and approved that the President/CEO, Executive Vice President/COO, General Counsel and any other proper officers, members, agents and employees of Invest Atlanta are hereby authorized, empowered and directed to do all such acts and things and to execute all such documents as may be necessary to carry out and comply with the provisions of this Resolution and are further authorized to take any and all further actions and execute and deliver any and all other certificates, papers and documents as may be necessary or desirable to effect the actions contemplated by this Resolution. Such other certificates, papers and documents shall be in such form and contain such terms and conditions as may be approved by the Chair, Vice Chair, President/CEO, Executive Vice President/COO or General Counsel of Invest Atlanta, and the execution of such other certificates, papers and documents by the Chair, Vice Chair, President/CEO, Executive Vice President/COO or General Counsel of Invest Atlanta as herein authorized shall be conclusive evidence of any such approval. The Secretary or any Assistant Secretary of Invest Atlanta is hereby authorized to attest the signature of the Chair, Vice Chair, President/CEO, Executive Vice President/COO or General Counsel of Invest Atlanta and impress, imprint or otherwise affix the seal of Invest Atlanta on any of the certificates, papers and documents executed in connection with this Resolution, but shall not be obligated to do so, and the absence of the signature of the Secretary or Assistant Secretary or Invest Atlanta's seal on any such other certificates, papers and documents shall not affect the validity or enforceability of Invest Atlanta's obligations thereunder. A facsimile or electronic signature will constitute an original signature for all purposes.

Section 5. **Actions Approved and Confirmed.** It is hereby ratified and approved that all acts and doings of the officers, employees or agents of Invest Atlanta whether done

before, on or after the date of adoption of this Resolution which are in conformity with the purposes and intents of this Resolution shall be, and the same hereby are, in all respects approved, ratified and confirmed.

Section 6. **Partial Invalidity**. If any one or more of the provisions herein contained shall be held contrary to any express provision of law or contrary to the policy of express law, though not expressly prohibited, or against public policy, or shall for any reason whatsoever be held invalid, then such covenants, agreements or provisions shall be null and void and shall be deemed separate from the remaining agreements and provisions and shall in no way effect the validity of any of the other agreements and provisions hereof.

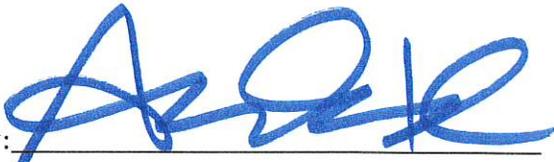
Section 7. **Conflicts**. All resolutions or parts thereof of Invest Atlanta in conflict with the provisions herein contained are, to the extent of such conflict, hereby superseded and repealed.

Section 8. **Effective Date**. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

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Adopted and approved this 15th day of September, 2022.

**THE ATLANTA DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY D/B/A INVEST
ATLANTA**

By: 
Chair

Attest: 
Assistant Secretary



SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATE

The undersigned Assistant Secretary of the Atlanta Development Authority d/b/a Invest Atlanta does hereby certify that the foregoing pages of typewritten matter constitute a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted on September 15, 2022, by the members of the Board of Directors of Invest Atlanta in a meeting duly called and assembled, after due and reasonable notice was given in accordance with applicable laws and with the procedures of Invest Atlanta, by a vote of a majority of the directors present and voting, which meeting was open to the public and at which a quorum was present and acting throughout and that the original of the foregoing Resolution appears of public record in the Minute Book of Invest Atlanta, which is in my custody and control.

I further certify that such Resolution has not been rescinded, repealed or modified.

Given under my signature and seal of Invest Atlanta, this 15th day of September, 2022.


Assistant Secretary





RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, on June 29, 2022, the United States Department of Transportation ("USDOT") published a Notice of Funding Opportunity ("NOFO") under the U.S. Department of Transportation FY 2022 Reconnecting Communities Pilot ("RCP") Discretionary Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, \$1 billion in grant funds will be awarded on a competitive basis to fund planning and capital construction to reconnect communities by removing, retrofitting, or mitigating transportation facilities such as highways and rail lines that create barriers to community connectivity including mobility, access, or economic development; and

WHEREAS, USDOT will award no more than \$145 million for eligible engineering and capital construction activities of projects eligible for RCP Grants in FY 2022; and

WHEREAS, the application deadline established by USDOT is October 13, 2022; and

WHEREAS, this NOFO solicits applications from all eligible applicants, which includes local governments including the City of Atlanta ("City"); and

WHEREAS, the City is applying in partnership with the Atlanta Downtown Improvement District ("ADID"), where ADID will manage the implementation of the grant and will be responsible for \$500,000 of the local match funds and will be reimbursed for the federal funds through the City; and

WHEREAS, the Stitch project (the "Project"), which is a proposal to cap over the section of Interstate 75/85 (the Connector) in Atlanta's central business district between Ted Turner Drive and Piedmont Avenue, meets or exceeds the selection criteria and performance measures identified in the NOFO to address safety, state of good repair, economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability, and quality of life in the City's transportation network; and

WHEREAS, the Project aligns with the goals and values of City plans, including the Atlanta City Design and the One Atlanta: Strategic Transportation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the application is to advance shovel-ready engineering for the Project, including surface street and park design, structural engineering, and obtaining requisite local, state, and federal approvals; and

WHEREAS, ADID has budgeted unencumbered funds to provide \$500,000 of the required local matching dollars.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, this 19th of August 2022 that the Board of Directors of Atlanta Downtown Improvement District, Inc. supports an application for engineering for the Stitch; and that ADID hereby commits to provide the required local cash matching funds of \$500,000 if the City is awarded \$10,500,000 under the RCP Grant Program; and that ADID will also manage the implementation of the grant.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C.B. Jones', written over a horizontal line.

Craig B. Jones
Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A.J. Robinson', written over a horizontal line.

A.J. Robinson
President

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 7, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write in support of the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program capital construction grant application seeking to fund shovel-ready engineering of the Stitch project.

Downtown Atlanta's connectivity to surrounding neighborhoods was severed by highway construction during the mid-20th century. Interstates 75 and 85, one of Atlanta's largest "urban renewal projects," cut right through the heart of Downtown and removed the streets, buildings, and communities in its path. Now, in recognition of the lasting physical and economic effects of this impact, the Stitch seeks to bridge the divide and reconnect the fabric of the community.

A ¾-mile long "cap" of Interstates 75/85 in Downtown Atlanta, the Stitch aims to reconnect the urban fabric severed by the construction of the Interstates by adding 14-acres of new greenspace, multimodal street connections, enhancements to the Civic Center MARTA heavy rail and regional transit station, and new mixed-use real estate investment with a focus on affordable housing.

The Stitch's identified community benefits are cross-cutting and transformational and include: reducing barriers to economic opportunity by catalyzing affordable housing in an area connected to affordable transportation options like MARTA heavy rail service; building safe streets and transit station updates that prioritize walking, biking, and transit; improving climate change resilience through stormwater capture and reuse and urban heat island effect mitigation; and closing the investment gap created by the highway potentially unlocking billions of dollars in private investment. This integrated benefit approach is exactly what is envisioned by the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Grant Program.

The City of Atlanta and its partners are currently utilizing 2021 RAISE grant funds to ensure the Stitch fulfills the promise of a reconnected, livable urban neighborhood. These funds support planning and feasibility work for the Stitch focused on a robust community engagement plan for inclusivity, equity, and integration of Atlanta's history and future. With Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant funding, the City of Atlanta and its partners would complete shovel-ready engineering for the Stitch, the next step in delivering this transformational project.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this application. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly for more information.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING,
AND URBAN AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Sincerely,



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

CHAIR, PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE
ON INVESTIGATIONS

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 6, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am pleased to write this letter encouraging the full and fair consideration of the application from the City of Atlanta, Georgia for Department of Transportation Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program discretionary funding.

If awarded, this funding will be used to support shovel-ready engineering of the Stitch project. The Stitch, a ¾-mile long ‘cap’ of Interstates 75/85 in Downtown Atlanta, aims to reconnect the urban fabric severed by the construction of the interstate through 14-acres of new greenspace, multimodal street connections, enhancements to the Civic Center MARTA heavy rail and regional transit station, and new mixed-use real estate investment with a focus on affordable housing. The Stitch is a generational opportunity to transform Downtown Atlanta benefitting both the City of Atlanta and entire Metro Atlanta region. It will reconnect divided communities, promote equitable-development and environmental justice through affordable housing and transportation, catalyze economic development, facilitate people-focused mobility and community connectivity, enhance environmental resilience, and improve the health and wellbeing of Atlantans.

I encourage your full and fair consideration of this application, consistent with all agency rules and regulations. If you have any questions, please contact Titus Cornell at (202) 224-3643 or titus_cornell@warnock.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Reverend Raphael Warnock
United States Senator

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1005

October 3rd, 2022

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

To the Honorable Pete Buttigieg,

As Georgia's 5th Congressional Representative, I am proud to support Central Atlanta Progress and the Atlanta Downtown Improvement District's application for a Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Grant for their Stitch development. With this funding, the Stitch will provide access to urban green space and create new and improved affordable housing while reconnecting communities divided by highways, making pedestrian options safer, and providing better access to public transit.

Midtown and downtown have been separated for nearly half a century and it is time to connect these communities again. As the Congresswoman for Georgia's Fifth Congressional District and the House champion of the Reconnecting Communities Program that was included in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, I know how important projects like the Stitch can be to address decades of marginalizing policy decisions.

The Stitch will reclaim a 14-acre and a new ¾-mile platform spanning the 1-75/185 downtown connector between the Civic center MARTA Center at West Peachtree Street and Piedmont Avenue. This project will reconnect our communities and reduce air pollution, providing the city with new eco-friendly green spaces.

One of my many key commitments while serving Georgia's Congressional Fifth District is increasing affordable housing near public transportation and resources that people need to thrive. Not only will the Stitch include affordable housing, but it will also contribute to the vibrance of our community, with restaurants and businesses bringing more jobs and opportunities to Atlanta.

I am very proud that the Stitch program is occurring in my district. I am confident that Central Atlanta Progress and the City of Atlanta will execute the goals of the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Grant program. This project will benefit all residents who reside in the city of Atlanta by contributing to its social and economic success and creating more opportunities for constituents that I serve. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jared McKinley at (470)-623-7417.

Yours for the People,



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



STACEY EVANS
REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 57
750 PIEDMONT AVE. NE
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30308
stacey.evans@house.ga.gov

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COVERDELL LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 409
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334
404-656-0116
404-651-8086(F)

STANDING COMMITTEES

JUDICIARY
RETIREMENT
APPROPRIATIONS

September 26, 2022

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

Re: Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program – Capital Construction Grants
The Stitch: Capping Interstates 75/85, Downtown Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my support for the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant application seeking funding to advance the Stitch vision plan toward implementation. The Stitch, a $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile long 'cap' of Interstates 75/85 in Downtown Atlanta aims to build a reconnected pedestrian-friendly street grid, a new 14-acre greenspace, and a more people-centric built environment that will catalyze new real estate investment to benefit the immediate neighborhood, the City of Atlanta and the entire Metro Atlanta region.

Like many urban centers across our country, Downtown Atlanta's connectivity to surrounding neighborhoods was severed by highway construction during the latter half of the 20th century. Interstate 75/85, one of Atlanta's largest "urban renewal projects," cut right through the heart of Downtown and removed the streets, buildings, and communities in its path. Now, in recognition of the lasting physical and economic effects of this impact, the Stitch seeks to bridge the divide and repair the fabric of the community. The Stitch's identified community benefits are interconnected and extensive ranging from building safe streets that prioritize walking and biking and reducing barriers to economic opportunity to mitigating urban heat island effects and closing the investment gap created by the highway.



STACEY EVANS
REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 57
750 PIEDMONT AVE. NE
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30308
stacey.evans@house.ga.gov

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COVERDELL LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 409
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334
404-656-0116
404-651-8086(F)

STANDING COMMITTEES

JUDICIARY
RETIREMENT
APPROPRIATIONS

This integrated benefit approach is exactly what is envisioned by the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program.

2021 RAISE planning funds are funding detailed planning work for the Stitch which is helping to ensure that an investment in the transportation infrastructure to cap the interstate fulfills the promise of a connected and livable urban neighborhood. This work supports robust community engagement premised on inclusive and equitable principles that respect the historic context of the area, along with the technical scopes of work related to transportation, land use, sustainability and parks that will guide the future design and construction. Capital construction funding from the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program is critical to continuing the advancement of the Stitch by executing preliminary engineering. Completion of these next steps will make the Stitch a “shovel ready” project.

Thank you in advance for your thorough review and favorable consideration of this application. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly or my Chief of Staff at 678-234-9480 for more information.

Sincerely,

Stacey Evans

Stacey Evans
Georgia State Representative, 57th District



State Transportation Board of Georgia

Stacey J. Key
5th Congressional District

P.O. Box 29033
Atlanta, Georgia 30359

Tel: 404.310.5040
skey@dot.ga.gov

September 26, 2022

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

Re: Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program – Capital Construction Grants
The Stitch: Capping Interstates 75/85, Downtown Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am pleased to express my support for the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Capital Construction grant application for the Stitch. As a member of the State Transportation Board of Georgia representing the 5th Congressional District, I have been a strong advocate for transportation investment that delivers integrated benefits to the communities of Atlanta. Transportation infrastructure has the power to reduce barriers to opportunity, create jobs and drive economic opportunity.

The Stitch, a ¾-mile long 'cap' of Interstates 75/85 in Downtown Atlanta does just that. By re-building pedestrian-friendly street connections lost to highway construction and creating a new 14-acre greenspace over the freeway, nearby vacant and underutilized land can become more a more people-centric built environment in the heart of the city. In turn, the communities once disconnected from one another would have better access to transit, jobs and greenspace thus improving their quality of life.

I look forward to participating in a detailed planning effort for the Stitch that will develop the blueprint for how the investment in capping the interstate will fulfill the promise of a connected and livable urban neighborhood. The identified scope of work will support robust community engagement premised on inclusive and equitable principles that respect the historic context of the area, along with the technical scopes of work related to transportation, land use, sustainability and parks that will guide the future design and construction.

The Stitch planning effort is an ideal use of the U.S. DOT Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program discretionary planning grant program. Thank you in advance for your favorable consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stacey Key". The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent initial 'S' and 'K'.

Stacey J. Key
5th Congressional District
State Transportation Board



ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL

DOUG SHIPMAN
PRESIDENT

September 21, 2022

55 TRINITY AVENUE, S.W.
SECOND FLOOR EAST
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303
DIRECT (404) 330-6052
FAX (404) 739-9240
E-MAIL DSHIPMAN@ATLANTAGA.GOV

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As President of the Atlanta City Council, I take this opportunity to express my support for the City of Atlanta's RAISE planning grant application seeking funding to advance the Stitch, a $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile cap of Interstates 75/85 in Downtown Atlanta from the Civic Center MARTA Station at West Peachtree Street to Piedmont Avenue. By capping the existing highway with the Stitch, the City of Atlanta will benefit from a reconnected pedestrian-friendly street grid, a new 14-acre greenspace, and a more people-centric environment that will catalyze new real estate investment.

Like many urban centers across our country, Downtown Atlanta's connectivity to surrounding neighborhoods was severed by 20th century highway construction. Interstate 75/85, one of Atlanta's largest "urban renewal projects," cut directly through the heart of Downtown, removing the streets, buildings, and communities in its path. The Stitch seeks to reverse the lasting physical and economic effects of this impact by bridging the divide and repairing the fabric of the community. The Stitch's identified community benefits are interconnected and extensive ranging from building safe streets that prioritize walking and biking, reducing barriers to economic opportunity, mitigating urban heat island effects, and closing the investment gap created by the highway. This integrated benefit approach is exactly what is envisioned by the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Grant Program.

The City of Atlanta and its partners are currently utilizing 2021 RAISE grant funds to ensure that the Stitch fulfills the promise of a reconnected, livable urban neighborhood. These funds are supporting planning and feasibility work for the Stitch that is centered around a robust community engagement plan focused on inclusivity, equity, and integration of Atlanta's history and future. If awarded a Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant, the City of Atlanta and its partners would utilize this critical funding to complete shovel-ready engineering for the Stitch, the next step in delivering this transformational project.

Thank you in advance for your thorough review and favorable consideration of this application. Please do not hesitate to contact me or my Chief of Staff, Mr. Aaron Johnson, at 404-330-6052 for more information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doug Shipman".

Doug Shipman



District2Atlanta

OFFICE OF AMIR FAROKHI
Atlanta City Council, District 2

Atlanta City Hall
55 Trinity Ave SW, Suite 2900
Atlanta, GA 30303

Office (404) 330-6038
Mobile (404) 823-2099
Email afarokhi@atlantaga.gov

September 27, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Pete Buttigieg,

The City of Atlanta and the Atlanta Downtown Improvement District are pleased to jointly submit *The Stitch: Mending a Torn Urban Fabric* for a Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) preliminary engineering grant. The Stitch is a ¾-mile cap of Interstates 75/85 in Downtown Atlanta from the Civic Center MARTA Station at Ted Turner Drive to Piedmont Avenue. The Stitch will reconnect the grid system with pedestrian-oriented streets, introduce a new 14-acre greenspace, catalyze affordable housing, and establish a more people-centric built environment.

The Stitch connects Atlanta's Fourth Ward, a historically Black neighborhood previously known as Buttermilk Bottom, to Downtown. In the 1960s, the homes in Buttermilk Bottom were razed to make way for urban redevelopment while the construction (and subsequent widening) of Interstates 75 and 85 further disconnected the community and left behind vast areas of vacant land well into the 1980s. Some of that land is still vacant today. The project will reconnect the former Buttermilk Bottom neighborhood to Downtown, thereby improving access to jobs, amenities, and the heavy rail network for residents of District 2.

RCP funding will support shovel-ready engineering for the Stitch that builds upon previous community-driven planning and concept development work. Shovel-ready engineering work will include detailed design and cost estimates, necessary design approvals, and environmental permits needed to initiate the construction phase.

The Stitch is vital to the future of Atlanta and to making our city more connected, sustainable, and vibrant. We greatly appreciate USDOT's consideration of the proposal.

Thank you.

Amir R. Farokhi
Atlanta City Council, District 2



Russell R. McMurry, P.E., Commissioner
One Georgia Center
600 West Peachtree Street, NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30308
(404) 631-1000 Main Office

July 19, 2022

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

Re: Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program – Construction Grants
The Stitch: Capping Interstate I-75/I-85, Downtown Connector, Atlanta, Georgia

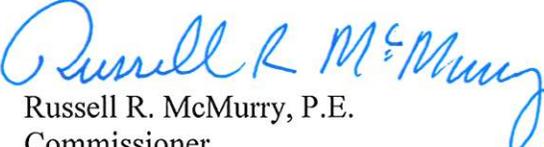
Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), I would like to express support for the City of Atlanta's application for "**The Stitch.**" This project would construct a ¾ mile platform spanning the I-75/I-85 Downtown Atlanta Connector between Ted Turner Drive and Piedmont Avenue.

GDOT has been working with the City of Atlanta on this project in the advancement of preliminary engineering work following the federal aid process and in accordance with the GDOT Plan Development Process. The City of Atlanta has advanced this work with its 2021 RAISE planning grant award and other grant awards/local funding sources. If awarded, GDOT understands this funding will be specifically used to advance the project to final design and ready for construction.

Thank you for your and the USDOT's time and thoughtful consideration of this grant request by the City of Atlanta. GDOT believes grant funding for this project will significantly reconnect people and places that were severed when the freeway was originally built benefiting the citizens of Atlanta and the greater metropolitan area.

Sincerely,


Russell R. McMurry, P.E.
Commissioner

cc: Emily Dunn, State Transportation Board Chair
Stacey Key, State Transportation, 5th Congressional District



Andre Dickens
Mayor

Lisa Y. Gordon
Chief Operating Officer

Marsha Anderson Bomar
ATLDOT Interim Commissioner

September 19, 2022

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

Re: Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program – Capital Construction Grants
The Stitch: Capping Interstates 75/85, Downtown Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Atlanta Department of Transportation (ATLDOT) is assisting with current planning and engineering for the Stitch proposal to ‘cap’ Interstates 75/85 in Downtown Atlanta between Ted Turner Drive and Piedmont Avenue and reconnect the area of Downtown once home to the historic Buttermilk Bottoms and Butler Street communities prior to the construction of the Interstate. This assistance is part of the City of Atlanta’s 2021 RAISE planning grant award and other grant awards/local funding sources. ATLDOT is supportive of the Stitch for the opportunity it presents to reconnect streets and neighborhoods removed by the construction of Interstate 75/85, create new pedestrian and light individual transportation (LIT) connections, and improve transit operations in the heart of the City. In addition, the Stitch will advance healthy and sustainable transportation options by catalyzing an estimated 14M square feet of dense, walkable, and affordable residential development within walking distance of the new 14 acre park the project creates.

ATLDOT enthusiastically supports an application for the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Capital Construction Grant to advance preliminary engineering work for the Stitch. If awarded, ATLDOT will continue to be a partner in administering Federal grant funds, reviewing planning and design documents, and advancing the design and implementation of the Stitch. ATLDOT understands this funding will specifically be used to advance the design of the Stitch to a “shovel-ready” state. This funding is key to ensuring the project aligns with the needs of key stakeholders, including the Georgia Department of Transportation and FHWA, and placing the project on a path towards implementation. We thank you for your consideration of supporting this this transformative project for the City of Atlanta through the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program.

Sincerely,


Marsha Anderson Bomar
Interim Commissioner



Atlanta Regional Commission

September 26, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

This letter serves as the Atlanta Regional Commission's (ARC) acknowledgement of the City of Atlanta's 2022 Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program application for preliminary engineering funding for The Stitch.

The Stitch is a $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile long cap of Interstates 75/85 in Downtown Atlanta that will reconnect the street grids allowing for transit and pedestrian friendly connectivity and access to a new 14-acre greenspace. The Stitch project is currently reflected in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

On March 10, 2021, the ARC Board adopted the Atlanta Region's Plan Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), which defines the region's long-term development and transportation investment strategy. As the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Atlanta region, ARC supports the efforts of our local and state partner agencies to pursue all available funding avenues for projects such as this, which directly implements RTP goals and objectives of promoting an accessible and equitable transportation system and strategically expanding our transportation system. Accordingly, ARC staff analysis of this proposal finds it to be accordant with RTP goals of providing world class infrastructure and fostering livable communities in the Atlanta region.

Please contact ARC if additional clarification is needed regarding the status of the project in question, or the process by which any awarded funds will be reflected in the RTP/TIP.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Orr".

[John Orr \(Oct 10, 2022 12:03 EDT\)](#)

John Orr
Transportation Manager

atlantaregional.org

International Tower
229 Peachtree St, NE | Suite 100
Atlanta, Georgia 30303



October 10, 2022

230 John Wesley Dobbs Avenue
Atlanta, GA 30303-2421
Phone: 404.892.4700
www.atlantahousing.org

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

Re: Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Discretionary Capital Construction Grant for
The Stitch: Capping Interstates 75/85, Downtown Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to share my strong support for the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program capital construction grant application seeking to fund shovel-ready engineering of the Stitch project. The Stitch, a ¼-mile long "cap" of this highway in Downtown Atlanta aims to re-build a reconnected pedestrian-friendly street grid and transit network, create a new 14-acre park, and foster a people-centric built environment that will enable new real estate investment – notably at Atlanta Housing's Civic Center site.

Atlanta Housing is pleased to be leading the redevelopment of the 20-acre Civic Center site to deliver a projected \$600 million investment in a mixed-income, mixed-use node in the Old Fourth Ward anchored by the preservation of the historic Civic Center auditorium as a community-serving performing arts center. The redevelopment seeks to develop the new community in an equitable manner with a focus on affordable housing with opportunities for improved health, education, and employment. The success of the Civic Center redevelopment is dependent upon a community-driven strategy to connect the residents of the newly created mixed-income residential and commercial spaces and employees with surrounding assets and amenities. The Stitch will provide substantially improved access from the Civic Center to the Civic Center MARTA rail station, Emory University Hospital Midtown, and the core of the Downtown business district by bridging the divide created by the interstate as well to create an additional 14 acres of new park space to improve the physical and mental wellbeing of the residents of the Civic Center and Old Fourth Ward.

We look forward to continuing to work with the City of Atlanta and its partners to advance a Stitch vision that fulfills the promise of a reconnected, livable urban neighborhood. Thank you in advance for your thorough review and favorable consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

EUGENE E. JONES JR.

113612F7F663450...

Eugene E. Jones, Jr.
President and CEO
Atlanta Housing



COBB COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Drew Raessler
Director

1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014
(770) 528-1600

September 20, 2022

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

Re: Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program – Capital Construction Grants
The Stitch: Capping Interstates 75/85, Downtown Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

CobbLinc supports the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant application seeking funding to advance the current Stitch vision plan toward implementation. The Stitch, a 3/4 mile long cap of Interstates 75/85 in Downtown Atlanta extends from the Civic Center MARTA rail station at West Peachtree Street to Piedmont Avenue. By capping the existing highway with the Stitch, the MARTA system and the broader community will benefit from a reconnected pedestrian-friendly street grid, a new 14-acre green space, and a more people-centric built environment that will catalyze new real estate investment.

CobbLinc is particularly interested in the planned off-street bus facility adjacent to the Civic Center MARTA station. The facility will relieve on-street bus congestion at the station and provide direct patron access between bus and rail by facilitating bus staging and passenger pick-up and drop-off at an off-street facility. CobbLinc has participated in planning studies recommending this bus facility previously and looks forward to collaborating as the project advances.

CobbLinc supports the goals of the Stitch and requests your favorable consideration for the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Capital Construction Grant application for advancing the design of the project.

Sincerely,

Drew Raessler, P.E.
Director



Gwinnett

GWINNETT COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
GWINNETT COUNTY TRANSIT DIVISION

75 Langley Drive | Lawrenceville, GA 30046-6935

770.822.7446

GwinnettCounty.com | GCTransit.com

September 21, 2022

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

Re: Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program – Capital Construction Grants
The Stitch: Capping Interstates 75/85, Downtown Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Gwinnett County Transit supports the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant application seeking funding to advance the current Stitch vision plan toward implementation. The Stitch, a ¾-mile long cap of Interstates 75/85 in Downtown Atlanta extends from the Civic Center MARTA rail station at West Peachtree Street to Piedmont Avenue. By capping the existing highway with the Stitch, the MARTA system and the broader community will benefit from a reconnected pedestrian-friendly street grid, a new 14-acre greenspace, and a more people-centric built environment that will catalyze new real estate investment.

Gwinnett County Transit is particularly interested in the planned off-street bus facility adjacent to the Civic Center MARTA station. The facility will relieve on-street bus congestion at the station and provide direct patron access between bus and rail by facilitating bus staging and passenger pick-up and drop-off at an off-street facility. Gwinnett County Transit has participated in planning studies recommending this bus facility previously and looks forward to collaborating as the project advances.

Gwinnett County Transit supports the goals of the Stitch and requests your favorable consideration of the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Capital Construction Grant application for this advancing the design of the project.

Sincerely,

China Thomas
Capital Transit Program Director
Gwinnett County Department of Transportation



September 14, 2022

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

Re: Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Discretionary Capital Construction Grant for
The Stitch: Capping Interstates 75/85, Downtown Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Atlanta Downtown Neighborhood Association (ADNA) is pleased to express support for the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program capital construction grant application seeking to fund shovel-ready engineering of the Stitch project.

The Stitch, a $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile long 'cap' of this highway in Downtown Atlanta aims to re-build a reconnected pedestrian-friendly street grid and transit network, create a new 14-acre park, and foster a people-centric built environment that will catalyze an estimated 13 million square feet of new mixed-use real estate investment, with a target of 20% affordable housing, to benefit our Downtown neighborhood and the entire City of Atlanta.

The Atlanta Downtown neighborhood encompasses the area that is south and west of the Stitch. As such, the Stitch will provide substantially improved access to jobs and amenities for Downtown neighbors to points farther north into Midtown Atlanta. Of particular interest is better pedestrian and bicycle access to Emory University Hospital Midtown and the Civic Center MARTA rail station. Bridging the divide created by the interstate with a new greenspace will improve the physical and mental health of our residents and ensure that our community continues to prosper as a great place to live, work and play.

Downtown residents look forward to continuing to work with the City of Atlanta and its partners to advance a Stitch vision that fulfills the promise of a reconnected, livable urban neighborhood. Thank you in advance for your thorough review and favorable consideration of this application.

Sincerely,
Robyn Jackson
Robyn Jackson
President, Atlanta Downtown Neighborhood Association (ADNA)
P O Box 57021, Atlanta, GA 30343

www.atlantadna.org



Sept. 20, 2022

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

Re: Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Discretionary Capital Construction Grant for
The Stitch: Capping Interstates 75/85, Downtown Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau (ACVB) supports the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program capital construction grant application seeking to fund preliminary engineering of the Stitch project. The Stitch, a ¾-mile long 'cap' of this highway in downtown Atlanta, aims to rebuild a reconnected pedestrian-friendly street grid and transit network, create a new 14-acre park and foster a people-centric environment.

As the official destination marketing organization for the city that serves to support Atlanta's economy through conventions and tourism, ACVB is particularly interested in the benefits the Stitch infrastructure will deliver to Atlanta's hospitality industry, which generated an estimated 57 million annual visitors prior to the pandemic. Improved access and mobility, the creation of new parks and plazas and the continued investment in new Downtown destinations and venues are all improvements that will enhance the visitor experience in Atlanta and help us attract meetings, conventions and leisure travelers to our city.

We look forward to continuing to work with the City of Atlanta and its partners to advance a Stitch vision that fulfills the promise of a reconnected, vibrant urban neighborhood and convention district. Thank you in advance for your thorough review and favorable consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'William Pate'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

William Pate
President and CEO
Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau



September 30, 2022

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

Re: U.S. DOT Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Discretionary Grant
The Stitch: Capping Interstates 75/85, Downtown Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Atlanta Land Trust is pleased to support the City of Atlanta's U.S. DOT Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program application for a grant to advance engineering of the Stitch, a ¾-mile cap of Interstates 75/85 in Downtown Atlanta from the Civic Center MARTA Station at West Peachtree Street to Piedmont Avenue. By capping the existing highway with the Stitch, the community we serve will benefit from a reconnected pedestrian-friendly street grid, a new 14-acre greenspace, and a more people-centric built environment that will catalyze new real estate investment with a focus on affordable housing opportunities.

A major goal of the Stitch development is to increase the amount of sustainable and affordable housing. Through partnerships with local nonprofits like the Atlanta Land Trust, properties near The Stitch can be acquired for transit oriented, permanently affordable housing that enables low-income residents to live in the center of Atlanta and benefit from the proximity to workplaces, greenspace, and healthy food options. The Stitch will also promote sustainable development and climate-responsive design in Downtown. By capping the highway with greenspace and surfaces that reflect heat, the Stitch will help to mitigate the heat island effect created by the highway, reducing risk of heat stress Atlanta residents and commuters in the area.

The Stitch is vital to the future of Atlanta and to making our city more connected, sustainable, and equitable. The Atlanta Land Trust looks forward to engaging in efforts to advance the Stitch and encourages your favorable consideration of the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A Rhein".

Amanda Rhein
Executive Director

245 NORTH HIGHLAND AVENUE NE
SUITE 230-724
ATLANTA, GA 30307

404.257.6866
INFO@ATLLANDTRUST.ORG



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta, GA 30341-3724

September 19, 2022

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

Re: Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Discretionary Capital Construction Grant for
The Stitch: Capping Interstates 75/85, Downtown Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to offer a letter of capabilities relevant to the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program capital construction grant application seeking to fund shovel-ready engineering of the Stitch project. The Stitch, a ¾-mile long "cap" of the interstate in Downtown Atlanta aims to re-build a reconnected pedestrian-friendly street grid and transit network, create a new 14-acre park, and foster a people-centric built environment that will catalyze an estimated 13 million square feet of new mixed-use real estate investment, with a target of 20% affordable housing, to benefit the immediate neighborhood and the entire City of Atlanta.

The Climate and Health Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) supports state, tribal, local, and territorial public health agencies and their partners as they prepare for the health impacts of a changing climate. We offer a variety of data, guidance, tools, and technical assistance to various stakeholders, which the city of Atlanta would be eligible for. The goals of The Stitch, particularly the focus on addressing the health of disproportionately impacted communities that have been marginalized, aligns well with CDC's goals to further protect our communities from the human health impacts of climate change. CDC's existing guidance on incorporating justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) into projects (see <https://www.cdc.gov/climateandhealth/JEDI.htm>) is highly relevant to The Stitch. Our Environmental Justice Index (<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/eji/index.html>) can also be used to maximize the health benefits of The Stitch proposal while ensuring those most impacted by climate change receive key benefits.

This vision for a reconnected vibrant community promises to deliver a host of health and environmental benefits. The new 14-acre park will deliver a safe place for community members to be physically active away from busy streets, which aligns with CDC's review of scientific evidence on how communities can use green spaces to improve human health, encourage active transportation, and adapt to climate change (<https://arcg.is/109W4D>). The project could also improve air quality while reducing the urban heat island effect, providing tangible public health benefits guided by CDC's summaries of reducing air pollution (<https://arcg.is/01OCfm>) and adapting to extreme heat (<https://arcg.is/rjL5r>) in the context of climate change.

We look forward to providing guidance and technical assistance to the City of Atlanta and its partners to advance a Stitch vision that fulfills the promise of a reconnected, climate-resilient, healthy, and livable urban neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Paul J Schramm, MS, MPH

Paul J Schramm

Climate Science Team Lead
Chair, CDC Task Force on Climate and Health
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
770-488-0666
pschramm@cdc.gov

September 27, 2022

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

Re: U.S. DOT Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Discretionary Grant
The Stitch: Capping Interstates 75/85, Downtown Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Secretary Pete Buttigieg:

The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta is pleased to support the City of Atlanta's U.S. DOT Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program application for a grant to advance engineering of the Stitch, a $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile cap of Interstates 75/85 in Downtown Atlanta from the Civic Center MARTA Station at West Peachtree Street to Piedmont Avenue. By capping the existing highway with the Stitch, the community we serve will benefit from a reconnected pedestrian-friendly street grid, a new 14-acre green space, and a more people-centric built environment that will catalyze new real estate investment with a focus on affordable housing opportunities.

A major goal of the Stitch development is to catalyze the expansion of sustainable and affordable housing options. Through partnerships with local institutions like the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, properties near the Stitch can be acquired for transit-oriented, permanent affordable housing that enables low-income residents to live in the center of Atlanta and benefit from the proximity to workplaces, green spaces, and food options. The location of the Stitch is an ideal spot for such an investment because of its unequal access to low-cost transportation, the second highest cost for families in Atlanta.

The Stitch is vital to the future of Atlanta and to making our city more connected, sustainable, and vibrant. The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta looks forward to engaging efforts to advance the Stitch and encourages your favorable consideration of the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant application.

Sincerely,



Sarah S. Kirsch
Managing Director, Housing Funds
Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta



October 12, 2022

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

Re: Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Grant
The Stitch: Capping Interstates 75/85, Downtown Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Secretary Pete Buttigieg,

The Fourth Ward West Neighborhood Association is pleased to express our strong support for the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Grant application for a planning grant to advance The Stitch, a $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile cap of Interstates 75/85 in Downtown Atlanta from the Civic Center MARTA Station at West Peachtree Street to Piedmont Avenue. By capping the highway with the Stitch, our community and the broader City of Atlanta will benefit from a reconnected grid system featuring pedestrian-oriented streets, a new 14-acre greenspace, and a more people-centric built environment.

The Fourth Ward West Neighborhood Association represents the northwestern area of the Old Fourth Ward neighborhood and encompasses the portion of The Stitch that is west of Peachtree Street. The Stitch will provide substantially improved access to jobs and amenities such as the Emory University Hospital Midtown and will vastly improve the neighborhood's ability to utilize the heavy rail system, which is located across the interstate. Bridging the divide created by the interstate with a new greenspace will improve the physical and mental health of our residents and ensure that Fourth Ward West continues to prosper as a great place to live, work and play.

The Stitch is vital to the future of Atlanta and to making our city more connected, sustainable, and vibrant. The Fourth Ward West Neighborhood looks forward to engaging in planning efforts to advance The Stitch and encourages your favorable consideration of the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Program grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catherine Chase". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Catherine Chase
President

October 6, 2022

230 Peachtree Street NW
Suite 2275
Atlanta, GA 30303
tel 404.876.2900
georgiaconservancy.org

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



Re: Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program – Capital Construction Grants
The Stitch: Capping Interstates 75/85, Downtown Atlanta, Georgia

PRESIDENT
Katherine Moore*

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

BOARD CHAIR
Virginia Harman, Cave Spring*

It is a great pleasure to be corresponding with you regarding such an exciting and transformative project for the City of Atlanta. Also, I thank you for your support for the variety of mobility needs our country needs and seeks.

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Founded in 1967, the Georgia Conservancy (GC) is one of Georgia's oldest environmental nonprofit organizations, operating statewide, and seeking a balance between natural resources and economic development. We support policy decisions under a vision statement that seeks to cultivate a *Georgia where all people and the environment thrive.*

Georgia Conservancy is pleased to express our support for the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant application to advance The Stitch, a ¾-mile cap of Interstates 75/85 in Downtown Atlanta from the Civic Center MARTA Station at Ted Turner Drive to Piedmont Avenue. By capping the highway with the Stitch, the City of Atlanta and the environment will benefit from a reconnected grid system featuring pedestrian-oriented streets, a new 14-acre greenspace, and sustainable infrastructure and design that will help to mitigate the effects of climate change.

The Stitch will not only provide substantially improved access to jobs and critical health and wellness institutions such as the Emory University Hospital Midtown, but also empower local residents to utilize sustainable transportation options through transit-oriented housing, improved access to the Civic Center MARTA station, and new bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. Bridging the divide created by the interstate with a new greenspace will improve the physical and mental health of our residents and capture more carbon, reduce stormwater runoff, and mitigate urban heat island effects. Through private-public partnerships, The Stitch will become a model for sustainable, energy-efficient design for cities across the United States as they endeavor to implement climate responsive design strategies.

The Stitch is vital to the future of Atlanta and to making the city healthier, more sustainable, and better positioned to address the effects of climate change.

Regards and my support as you pursue the duties of your office,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katherine Moore".

**Katherine Moore, AICP
President**

ADVISORY COUNCIL
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*Executive Committee Member



October 3, 2022

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

Re: Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Discretionary Capital Construction Grant for
The Stitch: Capping Interstates 75/85, Downtown Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Metro Atlanta Chamber is pleased to express our strong support for the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant application for funding to advance The Stitch, a ¾-mile cap of Interstates 75/85 in Downtown Atlanta. The project creates a unique and necessary opportunity to reconnect communities and bring quality housing, jobs, and economic vitality to an area of longstanding disinvestment.

For over 160 years, the Metro Atlanta Chamber has worked to strengthen the qualities that make Atlanta one of the nation's most unique metros — its neighborhoods, culture, quality of life, welcoming business community and more. Still, as Atlanta leads the nation as a welcoming location with a rich Black community, racial inequity and immobility are all too prevalent. This has led to patterns of lagging growth, particularly in areas of the city most impacted by the highway construction.

The Stitch will change this calculus and serve as a catalyst for private development by providing amenities such as public parks and improved pedestrian and transit connections. These features help attract Atlanta's next generation of residents, employees, and small business owners, while also providing the infrastructure for legacy residents to age in place and have access to the services they need to thrive. In this way, The Stitch is a model of equitable public investment that will help fuel smart, more balanced growth in the years to come.

The Stitch is vital to the future of Atlanta and to making our city more connected, sustainable, and vibrant. We look forward to engaging in efforts to advance The Stitch and encourages your favorable consideration of the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant application.

Sincerely,

Katie Kirkpatrick, P.E.
President and Chief Executive Officer

NPU-M – the heart of the city

September 26, 2022

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

Re: Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Discretionary Capital Construction Grant for
The Stitch: Capping Interstates 75/85, Downtown Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Neighborhood Planning Unit M (NPU M) is pleased to express support for the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program capital construction grant application seeking to fund shovel-ready engineering of the Stitch project.

The Stitch, a ¾-mile long 'cap' of this highway in Downtown Atlanta aims to re-build a reconnected pedestrian-friendly street grid and transit network, create a new 14-acre park, and foster a people-centric built environment that will catalyze an estimated 13 million square feet of new mixed-use real estate investment, with a target of 20% affordable housing, to benefit the immediate neighborhood and the entire City of Atlanta.

As the official City of Atlanta community advisory body for the neighborhoods around the Stitch the residents of NPU M are excited about the benefits the Stitch will deliver, notably the improved access to jobs, transit and amenities, as well as overall better connectivity among the neighborhoods within the NPU that are literally bounded by I-75/85, the ever-present physical barrier among us.

The residents of NPU M look forward to continuing to work with the City of Atlanta and its partners to advance a Stitch vision that fulfills the promise of a reconnected, livable urban neighborhood. Thank you in advance for your thorough review and favorable consideration of this application.

Sincerely,



W. Forrest Coley, Jr.
Chair
Neighborhood Planning Unit M



September 27, 2022

Post Office Box 14327
Atlanta, Georgia 30324
404. 875. 7284
pathfoundation.org
path@pathfoundation.org

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

***RE: Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program – Capital Construction Grants
The Stitch: Capping Interstates 75/85, Downtown Atlanta, Georgia***

Greta deMayo
Executive Director

Ed McBrayer
Executive Advisor

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Carol Muldawer

Dear Secretary Pete Buttigieg:

The PATH Foundation is pleased to provide this letter of support for the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant application to advance The Stitch project which will provide a ¾-mile cap of Interstates 75/85 in Downtown Atlanta from the Civic Center MARTA Station at Ted Turner Drive to Piedmont Avenue. For more than three decades, PATH has been focused on our mission to transform metro Atlanta into the most trail connected city in the United States. We understand the benefits capping the highway with The Stitch brings through reconnecting Atlanta with featured multi-use trails, a new 14-acre greenspace, and sustainable infrastructure.

The Stitch presents a perfect opportunity to expand Atlanta's trail system and bridge the city's interstate barriers by providing bike and pedestrian connectivity both east/west and north/south within downtown. PATH is excited to see the project's pursuit of this grant application/funding towards The Stitch's vision to connect current and future residents of downtown Atlanta to the Atlanta BeltLine and PATH's broader regional trail network.

This project aligns with the PATH Foundation's mission of trail development towards the creation of a healthy, walkable, and bikeable Atlanta. Please let us know if you need anything additional to confirm our support of this project. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly at greta@pathfoundation.org or (404) 234-6327.

Sincerely,

Greta deMayo, Executive Director



ATLANTA
Preservation Center

September 19, 2022

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

Re: Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Discretionary Capital Construction Grant for
The Stitch: Capping Interstates 75/85, Downtown Atlanta, Georgia

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ian Michael Rogers, President
Amanda Rhein, Vice President
Courtney Smith, Secretary
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

David Y. Mitchell

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Jean Astrop
Bryan M. Grant III
Nowland Gwynn
Elizabeth Morgan Spiegel
Rainey Rembert Woodward

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Atlanta Preservation Center is pleased to express support for the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program capital construction grant application seeking to fund shovel-ready engineering of the Stitch project. The Stitch, a $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile long 'cap' of this highway in Downtown Atlanta aims to re-build a reconnected pedestrian-friendly street grid and transit network, create a new 14-acre park, and foster a people-centric built environment.

The Stitch is located among the most significant historic neighborhoods of Atlanta. The I-75/85 right of way cuts across Peachtree Street (Atlanta's 'Main Street' and vital commercial artery since the city's founding in 1847) and through the portion of Atlanta's Fourth Ward historically known as Buttermilk Bottom. Throughout the 1950s and 60s, the homes of thousands of Black Atlantans in Buttermilk Bottom were razed to make way for urban redevelopment while the construction and subsequent widening of Interstates 75 and 85 further disconnected the community and left behind vast areas of vacant, some still vacant today. The construction also removed blocks and blocks of the built environment surrounding Peachtree Street leaving behind precious few buildings, notably the United Motor Services Building (1921), Medical Arts Building (1927) and the W. W. Orr Building (1930).

The Stitch represents an opportunity to reconnect – or “stitch” together – the historic urban fabric of Downtown and the Old Fourth Ward that was damaged by urban renewal and highway construction. The true opportunity is that this new and improved infrastructure not just connect people to jobs, housing, and opportunities, but also honor Atlanta's unique story. Revealing our lost history and protecting what remains through the Stitch project, aligns perfectly with APC's mission to promote the preservation of Atlanta's architecturally, historically and culturally significant buildings, neighborhoods and landscapes through education and advocacy. APC looks forward to engaging in planning efforts to advance the Stitch.

The Stitch is vital to the future of Atlanta and to making our city more connected, sustainable, and vibrant. The Atlanta Preservation Center encourages your favorable consideration of the City of Atlanta's application.

Sincerely,

David Yoakley Mitchell
Executive Director

ATLANTA PRESERVATION CENTER 327 ST. PAUL AVENUE SE ATLANTA GA 30312-3129 www.PreserveAtlanta.com (O) 404-688-3353 (F) 404-688-3357

THE PURPOSE OF THE ATLANTA PRESERVATION CENTER IS TO PROMOTE THE PRESERVATION OF ATLANTA'S ARCHITECTURALLY, HISTORICALLY AND CULTURALLY SIGNIFICANT BUILDINGS, NEIGHBORHOODS AND LANDSCAPES THROUGH EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY.

October 10, 2022



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

Re: Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Discretionary Capital Construction Grant for
The Stitch: Capping Interstates 75/85, Downtown Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Secretary Pete Buttigieg,

Propel ATL is pleased to express our strong support for the City of Atlanta's City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program capital construction grant application seeking to fund shovel-ready engineering of the Stitch project. The Stitch, a $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile cap of Interstates 75/85 in Downtown Atlanta from the Civic Center MARTA Station at Ted Turner Drive to Piedmont Avenue. By capping the highway with the Stitch, the City of Atlanta and the environment will benefit from a reconnected grid system featuring pedestrian and bicycle-oriented streets, a new 14-acre greenspace, sustainable infrastructure and design, and equitable economic development on the reclaimed spaces.

In the 1960s, homes in Buttermilk Bottom—a historically Black neighborhood— were razed to make way for urban redevelopment while the construction (and subsequent widening) of Interstates 75 and 85 further disconnected the community and left behind vast areas of vacant land well into the 1980s. Local streets were reconfigured to prioritize through-traffic speed over multimodal mobility. The Stitch will finally reconnect cleaved neighborhoods to the core of Downtown Atlanta in a meaningful way, create safe surface streets that prioritize low-speed travel, and provide additional equitable transit-oriented development, including affordable housing.

The Stitch is vital to the future of Atlanta and to making the city denser, healthier, and more sustainable. Propel ATL looks forward to engaging in efforts to advance The Stitch in an equity-centered way and encourages your favorable consideration of the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Serna". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rebecca Serna
Executive Director
Propel ATL

October 7, 2022

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

Re: Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Discretionary Capital Construction
Grant for The Stitch: Capping Interstates 75/85, Downtown Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Secretary Pete Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Southern Environmental Law Center (“SELC”), I write to express our strong support for the City of Atlanta’s grant application under the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program seeking to fund shovel-ready engineering for the “Stitch” project. SELC is a non-partisan, non-profit organization that works throughout the Southeast to promote transportation and land use decisions that strengthen our communities, protect our environment, and improve our quality of life.

The Stitch would cap a ¾-mile section of Interstate 75/85 in Downtown Atlanta from the Civic Center MARTA Station at Ted Turner Drive to Piedmont Avenue. At this location, Interstate 75/85 is between fourteen and sixteen lanes wide and is set well below street level. By capping this large expanse of freeway, the Stitch will reconnect the street grid, improve pedestrian and bicycle mobility, expand access to the Civic Center MARTA station, create new community greenspace, and reduce exposure to the highway’s noise and air pollution. Perhaps most importantly, the project will begin to address some of the damage done to this area by the construction of the highway and other ill-advised “urban renewal” projects.

The Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Discretionary Grant Program (“NOFO”) sets forth criteria that the Department of Transportation will use to evaluate Reconnecting Communities grant applications. The Stitch exemplifies these criteria in several key respects.

First, the Stitch will help reduce exposure to air pollution in an area heavily affected by its proximity to Interstates 75/85. EPA’s EJSCREEN tool shows that the Stitch will be located in one of the most heavily impacted locations in the country based on its location adjacent to a major highway. According to EJSCREEN, the Stitch ranks in the 99th percentile nationally for Traffic Proximity.¹ Consequently, this location also bears a heavy air pollution burden based on metrics like Diesel Particulate Matter (94th percentile nationally), Air Toxics Cancer Risk (91st

¹ Data for the Stitch area from EPA’s EJSCREEN is attached as Exhibit A.

percentile nationally), and Air Toxics Respiratory Hazard Index (89th percentile nationally).² Capping the highway will help mitigate and reduce public exposure to this air pollution.

Atlanta Regional Commission modeling further illustrates the air pollution at this location. In its “Atlanta Roadside Emissions Exposure Study,” the Atlanta Regional Commission evaluated how local-scale air quality is impacted by changes to the transportation system.³ By evaluating “local emissions exposure at a human scale, planners can make more informed decisions about how roadway projects will impact health in their communities.”⁴ This modeling shows that the Stitch area has among the highest levels of fine particulate matter pollution in the region. A map of the Atlanta Roadside Emissions Exposure Study modeling is attached as Ex. B.

Second, the Stitch will advance the Reconnecting Communities Program’s goal of improving mobility and community connectivity. The western edge of the Stitch is anchored by Civic Center station, part of the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority’s (“MARTA”) heavy rail system. This station offers a gateway to the MARTA network and is a transfer location for regional commuter bus service. But the Civic Center MARTA station does not receive the same ridership or transit-oriented development as other nearby MARTA stations. The under-utilization of the Civic Center station is a result of its location directly over Interstate 75/85 and the highway’s impact on adjacent land use. The Stitch will help maximize the Civic Center station’s potential as a transportation asset for the entire Atlanta region.

Further, the Stitch also will improve transit and pedestrian access to key activity centers in the area including the Emory Hospital complex, Atlanta’s Downtown Business District, and the Atlanta Civic Center redevelopment site. These locations are key destinations for medical services, jobs, and housing. By better connecting these locations to the Civic Center MARTA station, and better connecting these locations to each other, the Stitch will improve the overall accessibility of these important activity centers.

Finally, the Stitch will advance the Reconnecting Communities Program’s goal of addressing harmful historic policies around displacement and segregation. The Stitch will be located adjacent to the site of the former Buttermilk Bottom neighborhood. Buttermilk Bottom was a thriving, Black, low-income, mostly rental neighborhood located immediately northeast of the Stitch project area. Buttermilk Bottom was located in a valley and flooded during heavy rain events.

In the 1950s, Atlanta Metropolitan Planning Commission cited these conditions to characterize the neighborhood as a slum and support “urban renewal” efforts in the area.⁵ The resulting actions, including construction of Interstate 75/85 and the Atlanta Civic Center,

² *Id.*

³ *Atlanta Roadside Emissions Exposure Study*, Atlanta Regional Commission <https://atlregional.github.io/DASH/arees.html>

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Williams, John E., “*Race, Place, and Politics: Urban Renewal, Redevelopment, and Stories of the Historic Buttermilk Bottom Neighborhood in Atlanta.*” Thesis, Georgia State University, 2019 at 42.

https://scholarworks.gsu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1133&context=geosciences_theses

displaced residents and decimating the Buttermilk Bottom neighborhood.⁶ The Metropolitan Planning Commission’s characterization of Buttermilk Bottom “highlights [the] racialized politics in urban renewal and the resulting alterations of the built environment in Atlanta during the 1960s.”⁷ As academic research explains:

Buttermilk Bottom was a vibrant community of African-American-run schools, churches, and businesses. It was a district of shotgun houses and juke joints, low-lying and poorly drained – a haven, a community—indeed a place—created by segregation. Former residents were displaced when the city leveled and cleared the district, and streets were realigned or removed. The transformation was so extensive that most people had [either] forgotten or never even knew that there had ever been a place called Buttermilk Bottom.⁸

The Stitch will not replace what was lost but can be a step toward rectifying these past mistakes.

The Stitch will also complement and enhance the efforts by existing landowners (including St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, Atlanta First United Methodist Church, and the City of Atlanta) to provide affordable housing in the area. Improved access to the Civic Center MARTA station and the area’s activity centers would benefit the existing and planned affordable housing in the area. Further, the Stitch’s policy framework includes goals for providing additional affordable housing as part of future developments in the project area.⁹

The Stitch is an important project to begin addressing the damage done in Atlanta’s past, and to build a healthier, more sustainable future. The Southern Environmental Law Center strongly supports the City of Atlanta’s Reconnecting Communities Pilot application. If you have any questions, please contact me at (404) 521-9900 or bgist@selcga.org.

Sincerely,



Brian L. Gist
Senior Attorney

⁶ City of Atlanta, The Stitch FY 2021 RAISE Planning Grant Application, at 1.

⁷ Williams, *supra* note 5, at 51.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ City of Atlanta, The Stitch FY 2021 RAISE Planning Grant Application, at 15, 19.

Ex. A

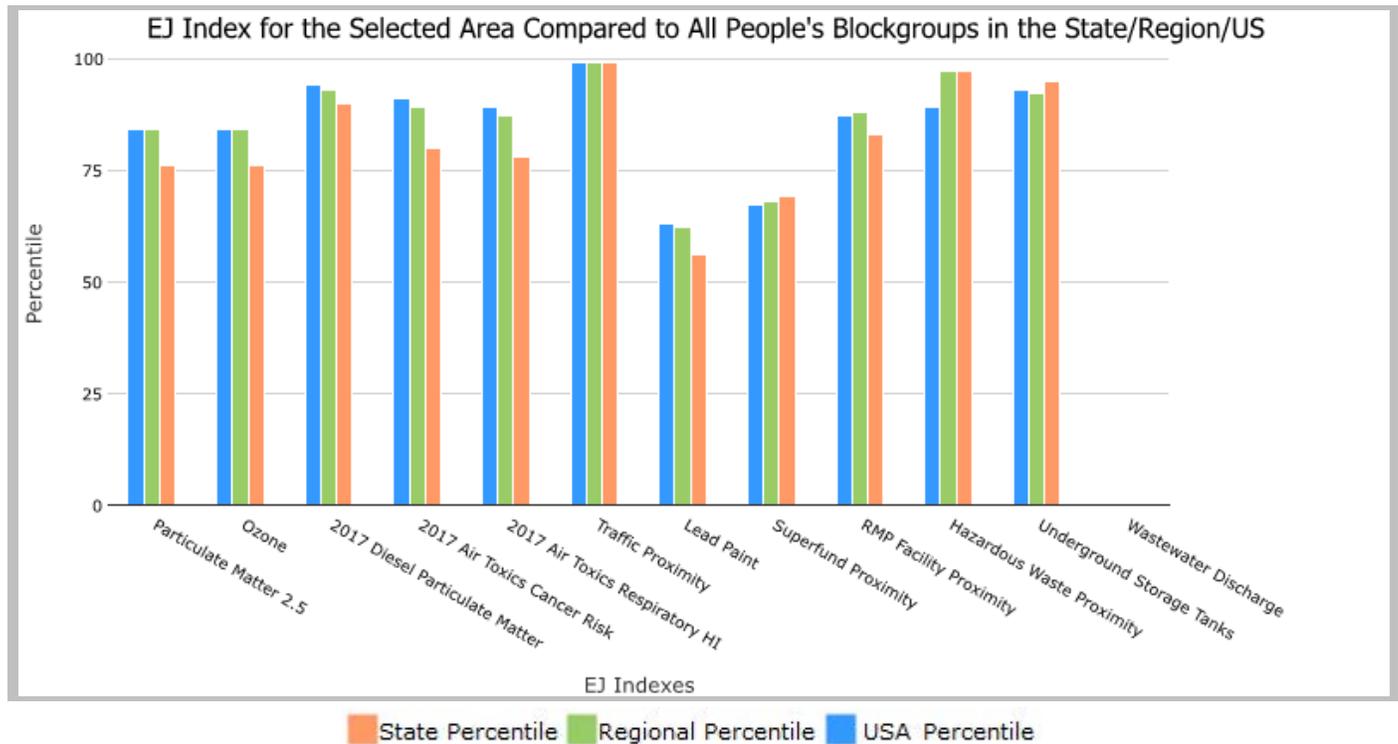
Data Outputs from Environmental Protection Agency's *EJ SCREEN*:
Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool

1 mile Ring Centered at 33.765706,-84.385617, GEORGIA, EPA Region 4

Approximate Population: 35,832

Input Area (sq. miles): 3.14

Selected Variables	State Percentile	EPA Region Percentile	USA Percentile
Environmental Justice Indexes			
EJ Index for Particulate Matter 2.5	76	84	84
EJ Index for Ozone	76	84	84
EJ Index for 2017 Diesel Particulate Matter*	90	93	94
EJ Index for 2017 Air Toxics Cancer Risk*	80	89	91
EJ Index for 2017 Air Toxics Respiratory HI*	78	87	89
EJ Index for Traffic Proximity	99	99	99
EJ Index for Lead Paint	56	62	63
EJ Index for Superfund Proximity	69	68	67
EJ Index for RMP Facility Proximity	83	88	87
EJ Index for Hazardous Waste Proximity	97	97	89
EJ Index for Underground Storage Tanks	95	92	93
EJ Index for Wastewater Discharge	N/A	N/A	N/A

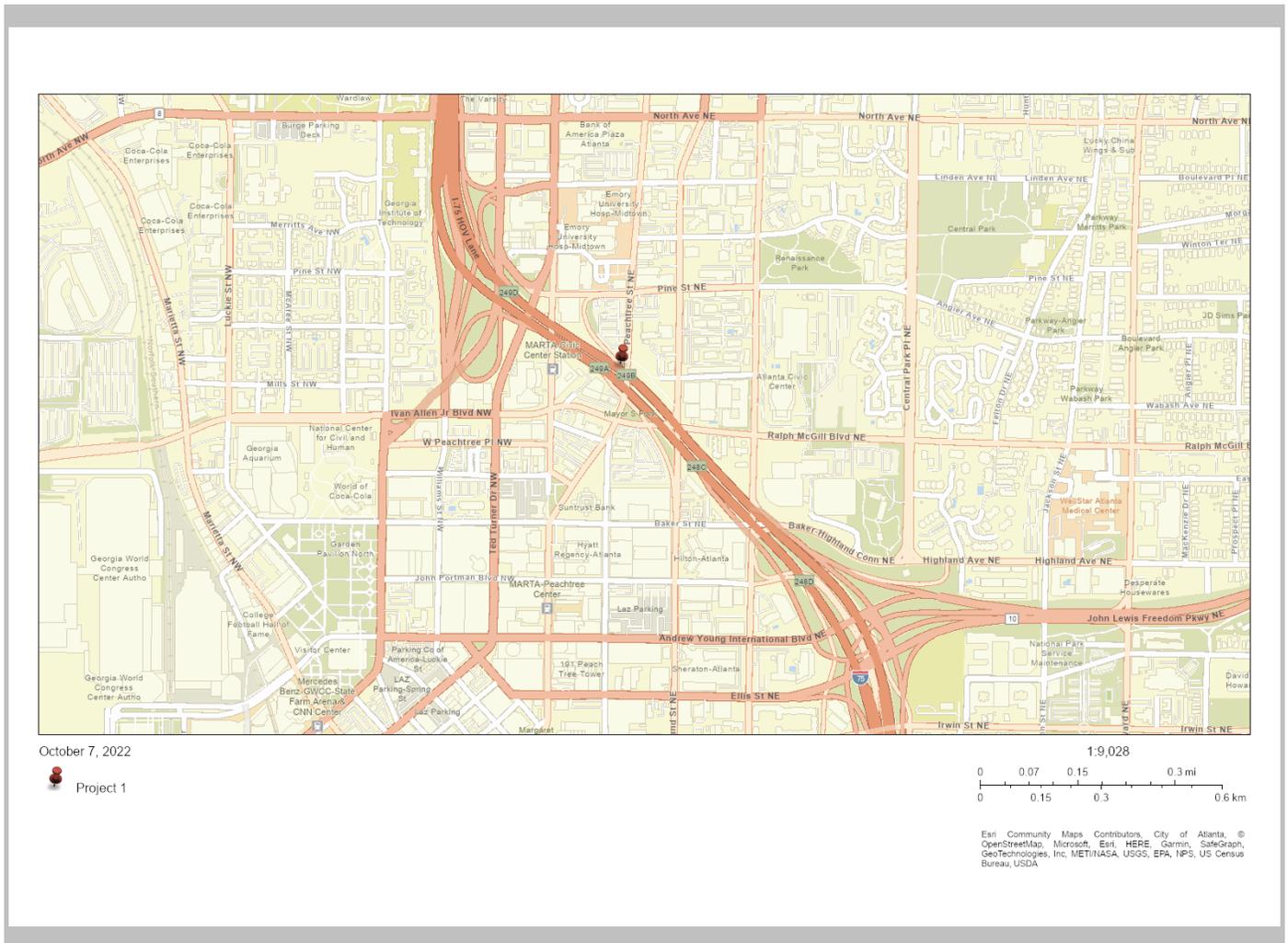


This report shows the values for environmental and demographic indicators and EJSCREEN indexes. It shows environmental and demographic raw data (e.g., the estimated concentration of ozone in the air), and also shows what percentile each raw data value represents. These percentiles provide perspective on how the selected block group or buffer area compares to the entire state, EPA region, or nation. For example, if a given location is at the 95th percentile nationwide, this means that only 5 percent of the US population has a higher block group value than the average person in the location being analyzed. The years for which the data are available, and the methods used, vary across these indicators. Important caveats and uncertainties apply to this screening-level information, so it is essential to understand the limitations on appropriate interpretations and applications of these indicators. Please see EJSCREEN documentation for discussion of these issues before using reports.

1 mile Ring Centered at 33.765706,-84.385617, GEORGIA, EPA Region 4

Approximate Population: 35,832

Input Area (sq. miles): 3.14



Sites reporting to EPA	
Superfund NPL	0
Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities (TSDF)	2

EJScreen Report (Version 2.0)

1 mile Ring Centered at 33.765706,-84.385617, GEORGIA, EPA Region 4

Approximate Population: 35,832

Input Area (sq. miles): 3.14

Selected Variables	Value	State Avg.	%ile in State	EPA Region Avg.	%ile in EPA Region	USA Avg.	%ile in USA
Pollution and Sources							
Particulate Matter 2.5 ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	9.58	8.94	88	8.18	94	8.74	76
Ozone (ppb)	43.2	39.4	98	37.9	88	42.6	59
2017 Diesel Particulate Matter* ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	0.869	0.294	99	0.261	95-100th	0.295	95-100th
2017 Air Toxics Cancer Risk* (lifetime risk per million)	47	36	97	31	95-100th	29	95-100th
2017 Air Toxics Respiratory HI*	0.59	0.46	98	0.4	95-100th	0.36	95-100th
Traffic Proximity (daily traffic count/distance to road)	12000	520	99	430	99	710	99
Lead Paint (% Pre-1960 Housing)	0.19	0.13	79	0.15	74	0.28	52
Superfund Proximity (site count/km distance)	0.012	0.037	42	0.083	11	0.13	6
RMP Facility Proximity (facility count/km distance)	1	0.63	80	0.6	81	0.75	76
Hazardous Waste Proximity (facility count/km distance)	2.4	0.42	97	0.62	94	2.2	74
Underground Storage Tanks (count/km ²)	12	2.1	98	3.5	92	3.9	91
Wastewater Discharge (toxicity-weighted concentration/m distance)	N/A	0.079	N/A	0.45	N/A	12	N/A
Socioeconomic Indicators							
Demographic Index	48%	41%	63	37%	71	36%	71
People of Color	53%	47%	58	39%	69	40%	67
Low Income	34%	34%	53	35%	52	31%	61
Unemployment Rate	5%	6%	58	6%	58	5%	61
Linguistically Isolated	2%	3%	64	3%	62	5%	54
Less Than High School Education	6%	13%	30	13%	31	12%	37
Under Age 5	2%	6%	9	6%	12	6%	10
Over Age 64	6%	14%	15	17%	9	16%	12

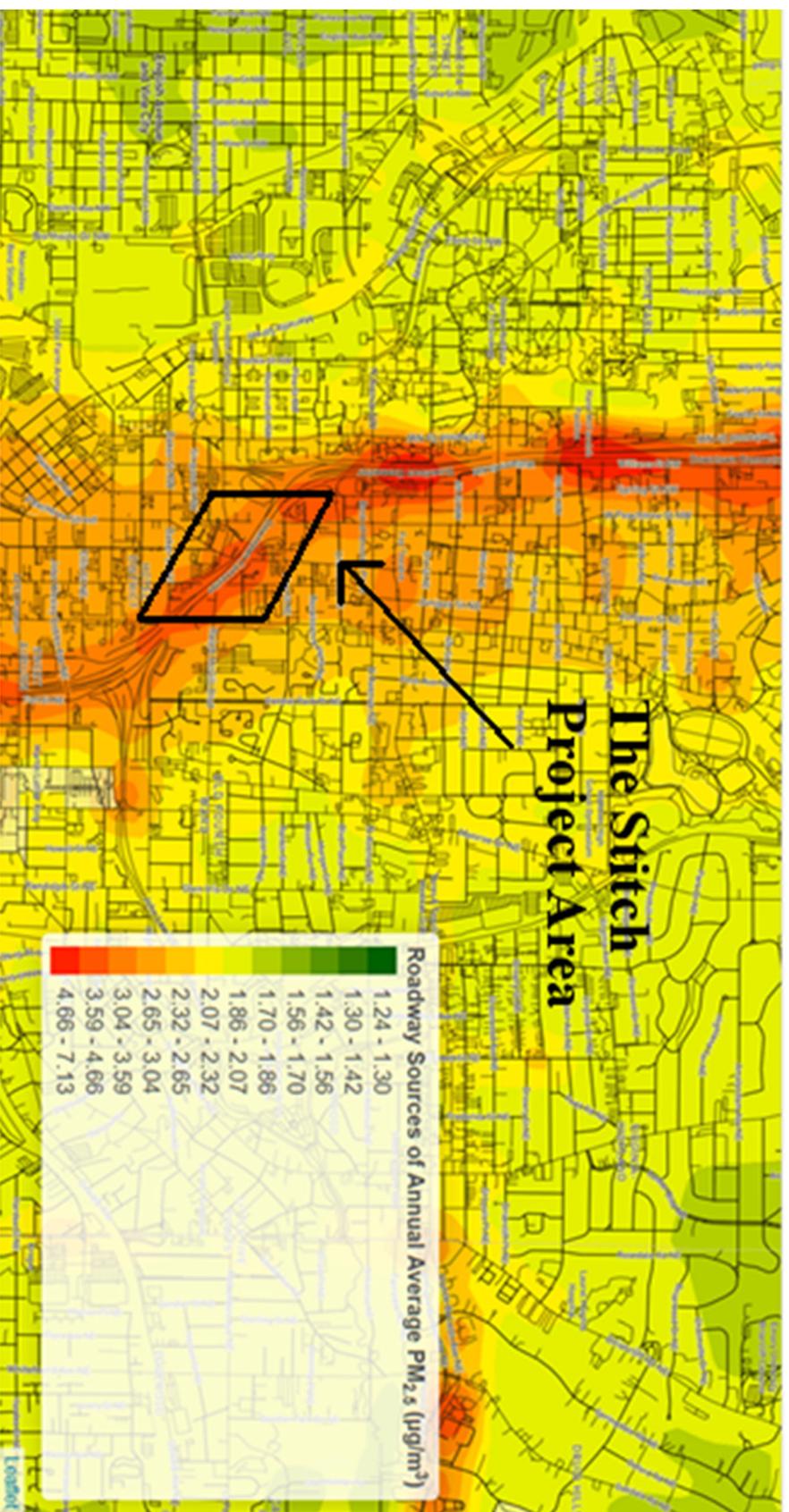
*Diesel particulate matter, air toxics cancer risk, and air toxics respiratory hazard index are from the EPA's 2017 Air Toxics Data Update, which is the Agency's ongoing, comprehensive evaluation of air toxics in the United States. This effort aims to prioritize air toxics, emission sources, and locations of interest for further study. It is important to remember that the air toxics data presented here provide broad estimates of health risks over geographic areas of the country, not definitive risks to specific individuals or locations. Cancer risks and hazard indices from the Air Toxics Data Update are reported to one significant figure and any additional significant figures here are due to rounding. More information on the Air Toxics Data Update can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/haps/air-toxics-data-update>.

For additional information, see: www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice

EJScreen is a screening tool for pre-decisional use only. It can help identify areas that may warrant additional consideration, analysis, or outreach. It does not provide a basis for decision-making, but it may help identify potential areas of EJ concern. Users should keep in mind that screening tools are subject to substantial uncertainty in their demographic and environmental data, particularly when looking at small geographic areas. Important caveats and uncertainties apply to this screening-level information, so it is essential to understand the limitations on appropriate interpretations and applications of these indicators. Please see EJScreen documentation for discussion of these issues before using reports. This screening tool does not provide data on every environmental impact and demographic factor that may be relevant to a particular location. EJScreen outputs should be supplemented with additional information and local knowledge before taking any action to address potential EJ concerns.

Ex. B

Modeled PM2.5 Air Pollution Based on Atlanta Regional Commission's Atlanta Roadside Emissions Exposure Study (AREES) Mapping Tool





September 26, 2022

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

Re: Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program – Capital Construction Grants
The Stitch: Capping Interstates 75/85, Downtown Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Secretary Pete Buttigieg,

Southface Institute is pleased to express our strong support for the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant application to advance The Stitch, a ¾-mile cap of Interstates 75/85 in Downtown Atlanta from the Civic Center MARTA Station at Ted Turner Drive to Piedmont Avenue. By capping the highway with the Stitch, the City of Atlanta and the environment will benefit from a reconnected grid system featuring pedestrian-oriented streets, a new 14-acre greenspace, and sustainable infrastructure and design that will help to mitigate the effects of climate change.

The Stitch will not only provide substantially improved access to jobs and critical health and wellness institutions such as the Emory University Hospital Midtown, but also empower local residents to utilize sustainable transportation options through transit-oriented housing, improved access to the Civic Center MARTA station, and new bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. Bridging the divide created by the interstate with a new greenspace will improve the physical and mental health of our residents and capture more carbon, reduce stormwater runoff, and mitigate urban heat island effects. Through private-public partnerships, The Stitch will become a model for sustainable, energy-efficient design for cities across the United States as they endeavor to implement climate responsive design strategies.

The Stitch is vital to the future of Atlanta and to making the city healthier, more sustainable, and better positioned to address the effects of climate change. Southface Institute looks forward to engaging in environmental planning efforts to advance The Stitch and encourages your favorable consideration of the City of Atlanta's RAISE application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura Case", followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that extends across the page.

Laura Case
Vice President Expertise and Innovation



September 22, 2022

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

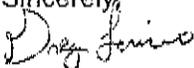
Re: Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program – Capital Construction Grants
The Stitch: Capping Interstates 75/85, Downtown Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Secretary Pete Buttigieg,

Trees Atlanta is an Atlanta-based nonprofit organization working to mitigate Atlanta's tree loss, protect its forests, and increase its tree canopy. We are pleased to express our strong support for the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant application to advance The Stitch, a ¾-mile cap of Interstates 75/85 in Downtown Atlanta from the Civic Center MARTA Station at Ted Turner Drive to Piedmont Avenue. By capping the highway with the Stitch, the City of Atlanta and the environment will benefit from a reconnected grid system featuring pedestrian-oriented streets, a new 14-acre greenspace, and sustainable infrastructure and design that will help to mitigate the effects of climate change.

The Stitch will not only provide substantially improved access to jobs and critical health and wellness institutions such as the Emory University Hospital Midtown, but also empower local residents to utilize sustainable transportation options through transit-oriented housing, improved access to the Civic Center MARTA station, and new bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. Bridging the divide created by the interstate with a new greenspace will improve the physical and mental health of our residents and capture more carbon, reduce stormwater runoff, and mitigate urban heat island effects. Through private-public partnerships, The Stitch will become a model for sustainable, energy-efficient design for cities across the United States as they endeavor to implement climate responsive design strategies.

The Stitch is vital to the future of Atlanta and to making the city healthier, more sustainable, and better positioned to address the effects of climate change. Trees Atlanta looks forward to engaging in efforts to advance The Stitch and encourages your favorable consideration of the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant application.

Sincerely,


Greg Levine,

Co-Executive Director & Chief Program Officer,
Trees Atlanta



600 W. Peachtree St. NW
Suite 1840
Atlanta, GA 30308
t: 404-876-7306

tpl.org

October 3, 2022

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

Re: Reconnecting Communities Pilot Grant Program
The Stitch/capping I-75/85 Downtown Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Secretary Pete Buttigieg,

Trust for Public Land is pleased to express our strong support for the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Program application for a capital construction grant to advance The Stitch, a $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile cap of Interstates 75/85 in Downtown Atlanta from the Civic Center MARTA Station at Ted Turner Drive to Piedmont Avenue. By capping the highway with the Stitch, the City of Atlanta and the environment will benefit from a reconnected grid system featuring pedestrian-oriented streets, a new 14-acre greenspace, and sustainable infrastructure and design that will help to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Trust for Public Land works with governments across the country to build parks and preserve land for people. The Stitch is an innovative example of how we can use parks to address a multitude of challenges facing cities – from transportation to stormwater to climate change – while improving the health and quality of life of residents. Trust for Public Land also is excited that The Stitch will reconnect pieces of Atlanta's urban fabric that were severed by the construction of Interstates 75/85 through the heart of its downtown. Through public-private partnerships, The Stitch will become a model for sustainable, energy-efficient design for cities across the United States as they endeavor to implement climate responsive design strategies.

Trust for Public Land looks forward to engaging in planning and design efforts to advance The Stitch and encourages your favorable consideration of the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Dusenbury".

George Dusenbury Georgia/Alabama State Director



September 30, 2022

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

Re: Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Discretionary Capital Construction Grant for
The Stitch: Capping Interstates 75/85, Downtown Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Urban Land Institute of Atlanta (ULI Atlanta) is pleased to offer our strong support for the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant application for funding to advance The Stitch, a $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile cap of Interstates 75/85 in Downtown Atlanta. The project creates a unique and necessary opportunity to reconnect communities and bring quality housing, jobs, and economic vitality to an area of longstanding disinvestment.

ULI Atlanta is one of the largest and most active District Councils in the United States with over 1,400 members working tirelessly to shape the future of the built environment for transformative impact in communities worldwide. The Stitch is an innovative embodiment of this mission, as it envisions a catalytic reconnection of Atlanta's core urban district and the communities that surround it. This transformation brings with it more green space, additional affordable housing and commercial development, as well as improved pedestrian and transit connections.

The Stitch is vital to the future of Atlanta and to making our city more connected, sustainable, and vibrant. We look forward to engaging in efforts to advance The Stitch and encourages your favorable consideration of the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daphne".

Daphne Bond-Godfrey
Executive Director
ULI Atlanta

22 September 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Atlanta First United Methodist Church, a direct neighbor of The Stitch, we are pleased to express our strong support for the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant application to advance The Stitch, a $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile cap of Interstates 75/85 in Downtown Atlanta from the Civic Center MARTA Station at Ted Turner Drive to Piedmont Avenue. By capping the highway with The Stitch, our community and the broader City of Atlanta will benefit from a reconnected grid system featuring pedestrian-oriented streets, a new 14-acre greenspace, and a more people-centric built environment.

As longtime property owners in Downtown Atlanta, we have seen the enduring impacts that the Downtown Connector has had on our community: a disconnected central business district with lagging growth and poor pedestrian experiences. Compared with neighboring Midtown Atlanta – a mere quarter mile north of the proposed Stitch – Downtown's rents are anywhere from 30-50% less. Given these economics, Downtown Atlanta has not captured its fair share of new housing or commercial development, as private investment concentrates in Midtown, Buckhead, and wealthy suburbs. Furthermore, the Stitch presents a unique opportunity to help Atlanta First United Methodist Church to maximize the impact of our vision to redevelop a portion of our property as affordable housing.

The Stitch will change this calculus and serve as a catalyst for private development in the area by providing amenities such as public parks and improved pedestrian and transit connections. These features help attract Atlanta's next generation of residents, employees, and small business owners, while also providing the infrastructure for legacy residents to age in place and have access to the services they need to thrive. Downtown Atlanta also includes some of Atlanta's poorest historically black communities, so The Stitch is also a model of equitable public investment in an area of legacy disinvestment.

The Stitch is vital to the future of Atlanta and to making our city more connected, sustainable, and vibrant. We look forward to engaging efforts to advance The Stitch and encourage your favorable consideration of the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant application.

Grace and peace,



The Rev. Jasmine R. Smothers
Lead Pastor

September 22, 2022

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

Re: Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Grant
The Stitch: Capping Interstates 75/85, Downtown Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Braden Fellman Group is pleased to express our strong support for the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant application to advance The Stitch, a $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile cap of Interstates 75/85 in Downtown Atlanta from the Civic Center MARTA Station at Ted Turner Drive to Piedmont Avenue. By capping the highway with The Stitch, our community and the broader City of Atlanta will benefit from a reconnected grid system featuring pedestrian-oriented streets, a new 14-acre greenspace, and a more people-centric built environment.

As longtime property owners in Downtown Atlanta, we have seen the enduring impacts that the Downtown Connector has had on our community: a disconnected central business district with lagging growth and poor pedestrian experiences. Compared with neighboring Midtown Atlanta – a mere quarter mile north of the proposed Stitch – Downtown's rents are anywhere from 30-50% less. Given these economics, Downtown Atlanta has not captured its fair share of new development, as private investment concentrates in Midtown, Buckhead, and wealthy suburbs.

The Stitch will change this calculus and serve as a catalyst for private development in the area by providing amenities such as public parks and improved pedestrian and transit connections. These features help attract Atlanta's next generation of residents, employees, and small business owners, while also providing the infrastructure for legacy residents to age in place and have access to the services they need to thrive. Additionally, the Stitch will substantially increase Atlanta's affordable housing supply. Through partnerships with local institutions, properties near The Stitch can be secured for transit oriented, permanent affordable housing that enables low-income residents to live in the center of Atlanta and benefit from the proximity to workplaces, greenspace, and food options.

The Stitch is vital to the future of Atlanta and to making our city more connected, sustainable, and vibrant. We look forward to engaging in planning efforts to advance The Stitch and encourage your favorable consideration of the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant application.

Sincerely,



Andrew Braden
Principal



October 5, 2022

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

Re: Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Grant
The Stitch: Capping Interstates 75/85, Downtown Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the ownership of Bank of America Plaza, the tallest building in the Southeast and 21st tallest in the United States, CP Group is pleased to express our strong support for the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant application to advance The Stitch, a ¾-mile cap of Interstates 75/85 in Downtown Atlanta. By capping the highway with The Stitch, our community and the broader City of Atlanta will benefit from a reconnected grid system featuring pedestrian-oriented streets, a new 14-acre greenspace, and a more people-centric built environment.

Bank of America Plaza is less than ¼ mile, under a five-minute walk from where The Stitch is proposed. As a result, we know and value this area very well and believe the development of The Stich will be transformative for the neighborhood. As longtime property owners in Downtown Atlanta, we have seen the enduring impacts that the Downtown Connector has had on our community: a disconnected central business district with lagging growth and poor pedestrian experiences. The highway created a dividing line decades ago and can be undone through this project.

The Stitch will be a gamechanger for Atlanta, serving as a catalyst for private development in the area. New amenities such as public parks and improved pedestrian and transit connections will attract more residents, employees, and business owners to this long undesirable area. New residential towers near The Stitch on long-blighted land parcels are among the most attractive options to developers, who can partner with local institutions to enable affordable and attainable rental units.

The Stitch is vital to the future of Atlanta and to making our city more connected, sustainable, and vibrant. We look forward to engaging in planning efforts to advance The Stitch and encourage your favorable consideration of the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Scott Barr'.

Scott Barr
Authorized Signatory on behalf of 600 Peachtree Propco LLC
Owner of Bank of America Plaza, Atlanta, Georgia



September 21, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

**RE: Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Grant
The Stitch: Capping Interstates 75/85, Downtown Atlanta, Georgia**

Drapac Capital Partners is pleased to express our strong support for the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant application to advance The Stitch, a $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile cap of Interstates 75/85 in Downtown Atlanta from the Civic Center MARTA Station at Ted Turner Drive to Piedmont Avenue. By capping the highway with The Stitch, our community and the broader City of Atlanta will benefit from a reconnected grid system featuring pedestrian-oriented streets, a new 14-acre greenspace, and a more people-centric built environment.

As longtime property owners in Downtown Atlanta, we have seen the enduring impacts that the Downtown Connector has had on our community: a disconnected central business district with lagging growth and poor pedestrian experiences. Compared with neighboring Midtown Atlanta – a mere quarter mile north of the proposed Stitch – Downtown's rents are anywhere from 30-50% less. Given these economics, Downtown Atlanta has not captured its fair share of new development, as private investment concentrates in Midtown, Buckhead, and wealthy suburbs.

The Stitch will change this calculus and serve as a catalyst for private development in the area by providing amenities such as public parks and improved pedestrian and transit connections. These features help attract Atlanta's next generation of residents, employees, and small business owners, while also providing the infrastructure for legacy residents to age in place and have access to the services they need to thrive. Additionally, the Stitch will substantially increase Atlanta's affordable housing supply. Through partnerships with local institutions, properties near The Stitch can be secured for transit oriented, permanent affordable housing that enables low-income residents to live in the center of Atlanta and benefit from the proximity to workplaces, greenspace, and food options.

U.S. - CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

1031 Marietta Street NW,
Suite A, Atlanta, GA 30318
T +1 (404) 480 4900
E contact@drapacgroup.com

AUSTRALIA

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Melbourne VIC 3000
T +61 3 9321 2500
E contact@drapacgroup.com

The Stitch is vital to the future of Atlanta and to making our city more connected, sustainable, and vibrant. We look forward to engaging in planning efforts to advance The Stitch and encourage your favorable consideration of the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Drapac', written in a cursive style.

Sebastian Drapac
Chief Operating Officer

EMORY UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL MIDTOWN

Daniel S. Owens
Chief Executive Officer
550 Peachtree Street, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

September 13, 2022

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

Re: Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Discretionary Capital Construction Grant for
The Stitch: Capping Interstates 75/85, Downtown Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to share my strong support for the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program capital construction grant application seeking to fund shovel-ready engineering of the Stitch project. The Stitch, a ¾-mile long 'cap' of this highway in Downtown Atlanta aims to re-build a reconnected pedestrian-friendly street grid and transit network, create a new 14-acre park, and foster a people-centric built environment that will catalyze an estimated 13 million square feet of new mixed-use real estate investment, with a target of 20% affordable housing, to benefit the immediate neighborhood and the entire City of Atlanta.

This vision for a reconnected vibrant community is essential to Emory University's future investment in the neighborhood immediately adjacent to I-75/85. In addition to the continued growth of the Emory University Hospital Midtown campus to serve the healthcare needs of the Atlanta region, Emory has acquired nearby property which is intended for future research and education purposes. The Stitch will provide improved pedestrian, bicycle and transit connections that will serve our employees, students, patients and visitors in a manner that is consistent with our vision for a healthy thriving community.

We look forward to continuing to work with the City of Atlanta and its partners to advance a Stitch vision that fulfills the promise of a reconnected, livable urban neighborhood. Thank you in advance for your thorough review and favorable consideration of this application.

Sincerely,



Dan Owens
Chief Executive Officer
Emory University Hospital Midtown



September 21, 2022

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

Re: Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Grant
The Stitch: Capping Interstates 75/85, Downtown Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Evergreen Real Estate Group is pleased to express our strong support for the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant application to advance The Stitch, a $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile cap of Interstates 75/85 in Downtown Atlanta from the Civic Center MARTA Station at Ted Turner Drive to Piedmont Avenue, across from our proposed 360 Peachtree affordable housing development in partnership with the Atlanta First United Methodist Church. By capping the highway with The Stitch, Downtown and the broader City of Atlanta will benefit from a reconnected grid system featuring pedestrian-oriented streets, a new 14-acre greenspace, and a more people-centric built environment.

As developers working in Downtown Atlanta, we have seen firsthand the enduring impacts that the Downtown Connector has had on the community: a disconnected central business district with lagging growth and poor pedestrian experiences. Compared with neighboring Midtown Atlanta – a mere quarter mile north of the proposed Stitch – Downtown's rents are anywhere from 30-50% less. Given these economics, Downtown Atlanta has not captured its fair share of new development, as private investment concentrates in Midtown, Buckhead, and wealthy suburbs.

The Stitch will change this calculus and serve as a catalyst for private development in the area by providing amenities such as public parks and improved pedestrian and transit connections. As the developers behind the 360 Peachtree affordable housing project, we cannot endorse the Stitch project enough as it will serve as a vital connection between our project in the heart of Downtown Atlanta, and the surrounding neighborhoods which have, for too long, been cut off by the interstate. The Stitch will provide irreplaceable amenities within walking distance of our project and will be a beacon for others to continue sustainably developing in the area.

The Stitch is vital to the future of Atlanta and to making our city more connected, sustainable, and vibrant. We look forward to engaging in planning efforts to advance The Stitch and encourage your favorable consideration of the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "D. Block". The signature is stylized and fluid.

David Block AIA AICP
Director of Development



October 3, 2022

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

Re: Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Discretionary Capital Construction Grant for
The Stitch: Capping Interstates 75/85, Downtown Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to share my strong support for the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program capital construction grant application seeking to fund shovel-ready engineering of the Stitch project. The Stitch, a ¾-mile long 'cap' of this highway in Downtown Atlanta aims to build a reconnected pedestrian-friendly street grid and transit network, create a new 14-acre park, and foster a people-centric built environment that will catalyze an estimated 13 million square feet of new mixed-use real estate investment, with a target of 20% affordable housing, to benefit the immediate neighborhood and the entire City of Atlanta.

This vision for a reconnected vibrant community is supportive of the Fox Theatre's continued growth and success. The Fox Theatre, a National Historic Landmark, with a seating capacity of 4,665, hosts more than 150 performances a year, bringing 500,000 plus visitors to Downtown each year and playing a critical role in Atlanta's arts ecosystem. As the historic Fox Theatre's neighbor, the Stitch will be a valuable amenity for visitors and improve pedestrian, bicycle, and transit connections to the venue.

We look forward to continuing to work with the City of Atlanta and its partners to advance a Stitch vision that fulfills the promise of a reconnected, livable urban neighborhood interwoven with arts and culture. Thank you in advance for your thorough review and favorable consideration of this application.

Sincerely,



Allan C. Vella

President & CEO
Fox Theatre, Inc.



October 4, 2022

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

Re: Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Discretionary Capital Construction Grant for
The Stitch: Capping Interstates 75/85, Downtown Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Gamma Real Estate is pleased to express our strong support for the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant application for funding to advance The Stitch, a $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile cap of Interstates 75/85 in Downtown Atlanta.

By covering the "Downtown Connector," The Stitch will endow our community and the broader City of Atlanta with a reconnected grid system featuring pedestrian-oriented streets, a new 14-acre greenspace, and a more people-centric built environment.

As property owners and champions of Downtown Atlanta, I reiterate that we have seen the enduring impacts that the Downtown Connector has had on our community: a disconnected central business district with lagging growth and inequitable investment. Compared with neighboring Midtown Atlanta – a mere quarter mile north – Downtown's rents are anywhere from 30-50% less due in no small part to the dominance of the highway.

Given these economics, Downtown Atlanta has not captured its fair share of new housing or commercial development. The Stitch, however, will change this calculus and serve as a catalyst for private development in the area by providing amenities such as public parks and improved pedestrian and transit connections. It will serve not only to bolster the viability of the neighborhood but that of the city as a whole. It will help attract Atlanta's next generation of residents, employees, and small business owners to the city's very core and provide the infrastructure for legacy residents to age in place and have access to the services they need to thrive.

The Stitch is vital to the future of Atlanta as a connected, sustainable, and vibrant American city. Gamma Real Estate looks forward to engaging in planning efforts to advance The Stitch and encourages your favorable consideration of the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant application.

Sincerely,

Matthew Jacobs
Managing Director



September 22, 2022

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

Re: Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Grant
The Stitch: Capping Interstates 75/85, Downtown Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Integral Group is pleased to express our strong support for the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant application to advance The Stitch, a $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile cap of Interstates 75/85 in Downtown Atlanta from the Civic Center MARTA Station at Ted Turner Drive to Piedmont Avenue. By capping the highway with The Stitch, our community and the broader City of Atlanta will benefit from a reconnected grid system featuring pedestrian-oriented streets, a new 14-acre greenspace, and a more people-centric built environment.

As longtime property owners in Downtown Atlanta, we have seen the enduring impacts that the Downtown Connector has had on our community: a disconnected central business district with lagging growth and poor pedestrian experiences. Compared with neighboring Midtown Atlanta – a mere quarter mile north of the proposed Stitch – Downtown's rents are anywhere from 30-50% less. Given these economics, Downtown Atlanta has not captured its fair share of new development, as private investment concentrates in Midtown, Buckhead, and wealthy suburbs.

The Stitch will change this calculus and serve as a catalyst for private development in the area by providing amenities such as public parks and improved pedestrian and transit connections. These features help attract Atlanta's next generation of residents, employees, and small business owners, while also providing the infrastructure for legacy residents to age in place and access the services they need to thrive. Additionally, the Stitch will substantially increase Atlanta's affordable housing supply. Through partnerships with local institutions, properties near The Stitch can be secured for transit-oriented, permanent affordable housing that enables low-income residents to live in the center of Atlanta and benefit from the proximity to workplaces, greenspace, and food options.

The Stitch is vital to Atlanta's future and to making our city more connected, sustainable, and vibrant. We look forward to engaging in planning efforts to advance The Stitch and encourage your favorable consideration of the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant application.

Sincerely,

Egbert L.J. Perry
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer



September 28, 2022

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

Re: Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Grant
The Stitch: Capping Interstates 75/85, Downtown Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Kaplan Residential is pleased to express our strong support for the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant application to advance The Stitch, a ¾-mile cap of Interstates 75/85 in Downtown Atlanta from the Civic Center MARTA Station at Ted Turner Drive to Piedmont Avenue. By capping the highway with The Stitch, our community and the broader City of Atlanta will benefit from a reconnected grid system featuring pedestrian-oriented streets, a new 14-acre greenspace, and a more people-centric built environment.

As longtime property owners in Downtown Atlanta, we have seen the enduring impacts that the Downtown Connector has had on our community: a disconnected central business district with lagging growth and poor pedestrian experiences. Compared with neighboring Midtown Atlanta – a mere quarter mile north of the proposed Stitch – Downtown's rents are anywhere from 30-50% less. Given these economics, Downtown Atlanta has not captured its fair share of new development, as private investment concentrates in Midtown, Buckhead, and wealthy suburbs.

The Stitch will change this calculus and serve as a catalyst for private development in the area by providing amenities such as public parks and improved pedestrian and transit connections. These features help attract Atlanta's next generation of residents, employees, and small business owners, while also providing the infrastructure for legacy residents to age in place and have access to the services they need to thrive. Additionally, the Stitch will substantially increase Atlanta's affordable housing supply. Through partnerships with local institutions, properties near The Stitch can be secured for transit oriented, permanent affordable housing that enables low-income residents to live in the center of Atlanta and benefit from the proximity to workplaces, greenspace, and food options.

The Stitch is vital to the future of Atlanta and to making our city more connected, sustainable, and vibrant. We look forward to engaging in planning efforts to advance The Stitch and encourage your favorable consideration of the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Morris Kaplan', is positioned above the typed name.

Morris Kaplan
President

1111 Kane Concourse, Suite 302 | Bay Harbor Islands, FL 33154

Office 305.901.2200

Fax 305.901.2201

kaplanresidential.com



303 Peachtree Center Ave NE
Suite 575
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
404. 614. 5252
www.portmanholdings.com

September 22, 2022

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

Re: Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Grant
The Stitch: Capping Interstates 75/85, Downtown Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Portman Holdings is pleased to express our strong support for the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant application to advance The Stitch, a 3/4-mile cap of Interstates 75/85 in Downtown Atlanta from the Civic Center MARTA Station at Ted Turner Drive to Piedmont Avenue. By capping the highway with The Stitch, our community and the broader City of Atlanta will benefit from a reconnected grid system featuring pedestrian-oriented streets, a new 14-acre greenspace, and a more people-centric built environment.

As longtime property owners in Downtown Atlanta, we have seen the enduring impacts that the Downtown Connector has had on our community: a disconnected central business district with lagging growth and poor pedestrian experiences. Compared with neighboring Midtown Atlanta – a mere quarter mile north of the proposed Stitch – Downtown's rents are anywhere from 30-50% less. Given these economics, Downtown Atlanta has not captured its fair share of new development, as private investment concentrates in Midtown, Buckhead, and wealthy suburbs.

The Stitch will change this calculus and serve as a catalyst for private development in the area by providing amenities such as public parks and improved pedestrian and transit connections. These features help attract Atlanta's next generation of residents, employees, and small business owners, while also providing the infrastructure for legacy residents to age in place and have access to the services they need to thrive. Additionally, the Stitch will substantially increase Atlanta's affordable housing supply. Through partnerships with local institutions, properties near The Stitch can be secured for transit oriented, permanent affordable housing that enables low-income residents to live in the center of Atlanta and benefit from the proximity to workplaces, greenspace, and food options.

The Stitch is vital to the future of Atlanta and to making our city more connected, sustainable, and vibrant. We look forward to engaging in planning efforts to advance The Stitch and encourage your favorable consideration of the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant application.

Sincerely,

John Portman IV
President

September 21, 2022



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

Re: Reconnecting Communities Pilot Grant Program
The Stitch: Capping Interstates 75/85, Downtown Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, a direct neighbor of The Stitch, we are pleased to express our strong support for the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant application to advance The Stitch, a 3/4-mile cap of Interstates 75/85 in Downtown Atlanta from the Civic Center MARTA Station at Ted Turner Drive to Piedmont Avenue. By capping the highway with The Stitch, our community and the broader City of Atlanta will benefit from a reconnected grid system featuring pedestrian-oriented streets, a new 14-acre greenspace, and a more people-centric built environment.

St. Luke's has been located on its current site in Downtown Atlanta since 1906, and we have seen the enduring impacts that the Downtown Connector has had on our community: a disconnected central business district with lagging growth and poor pedestrian experiences. Compared with neighboring Midtown Atlanta – a mere quarter mile north of the proposed Stitch – Downtown's rents are anywhere from 30-50% less. Given these economics, Downtown Atlanta has not captured its fair share of new housing or commercial development, as private investment concentrates in Midtown, Buckhead, and wealthy suburbs. Furthermore, the Stitch presents a unique opportunity to help St. Luke's maximize the impact of our long-term vision to redevelop a portion of our campus as affordable housing.

The Stitch will change this calculus and serve as a catalyst for private development in the area by providing amenities such as public parks and improved pedestrian and transit connections. These features help attract Atlanta's next generation of residents, employees, and small business owners, while also providing the infrastructure for legacy residents to age in place and have access to the services they need to thrive. Downtown Atlanta also includes some of Atlanta's poorest historically black communities, so The Stitch is also a model of equitable public investment in an area of legacy disinvestment.

The Stitch is vital to the future of Atlanta and to making our city more connected, sustainable, and vibrant. We look forward to engaging efforts to advance The Stitch and encourage your favorable consideration of the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant application.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Winnie Varghese
Rector

September 21, 2021

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

Re: Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Grant
The Stitch: Capping Interstates 75/85, Downtown Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

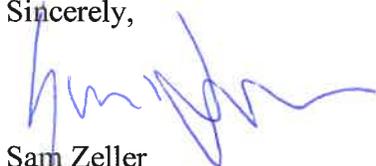
Zeller is pleased to express our strong support for the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant application to advance The Stitch, a $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile cap of Interstates 75/85 in Downtown Atlanta from the Civic Center MARTA Station at Ted Turner Drive to Piedmont Avenue. By capping the highway with The Stitch, our community and the broader City of Atlanta will benefit from a reconnected grid system featuring pedestrian-oriented streets, a new 14-acre greenspace, and a more people-centric built environment.

As longtime property owners in Downtown Atlanta, we have seen the enduring impacts that the Downtown Connector has had on our community: a disconnected central business district with lagging growth and poor pedestrian experiences. Compared with neighboring Midtown Atlanta – a mere quarter mile north of the proposed Stitch – Downtown's rents are anywhere from 30-50% less. Given these economics, Downtown Atlanta has not captured its fair share of new development, as private investment concentrates in Midtown, Buckhead, and wealthy suburbs.

The Stitch will change this calculus and serve as a catalyst for private development in the area by providing amenities such as public parks and improved pedestrian and transit connections. These features help attract Atlanta's next generation of residents, employees, and small business owners, while also providing the infrastructure for legacy residents to age in place and have access to the services they need to thrive. Additionally, the Stitch will substantially increase Atlanta's affordable housing supply. Through partnerships with local institutions, properties near The Stitch can be secured for transit oriented, permanent affordable housing that enables low-income residents to live in the center of Atlanta and benefit from the proximity to workplaces, greenspace, and food options.

The Stitch is vital to the future of Atlanta and to making our city more connected, sustainable, and vibrant. We look forward to engaging in planning efforts to advance The Stitch and encourage your favorable consideration of the City of Atlanta's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sam Zeller".

Sam Zeller
Chief Operating Officer