



July 16, 2021

Mr. Peter Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation (USDOT)  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: City of San Antonio Howard W. Peak Greenway Trails System: Zarzamora Creek Trail Connection between VIA Metropolitan Transit Ingram Transit Center and San Antonio River Authority (SARA) Creek Restoration Project in Bexar County, Texas**

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I write to you today as the CEO of San Antonio's largest business organization, the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce. Our organization is comprised of 1,750 area businesses who together employ 500,000 people in San Antonio and the surrounding region. We work to build and sustain a vibrant business community by engaging business owners, policy makers, and local leaders to propel business success. I am pleased to offer my strong **support to the City of San Antonio's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability & Equity (RAISE) grant application** for completion of the 4.7-mile Zarzamora Creek segment of the Howard W. Peak Greenway Trails System in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. This initiative is important to the San Antonio community and therefore important to the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce.

The Howard W. Peak Greenway Trail system - upon completion- will include over 100 miles of a multi-use, shared network of alternative transportation for some of the most vulnerable communities in San Antonio. As a partner to the City and the San Antonio River Authority (SARA), Bexar County has restored major transportation networks that connect the Zarzamora Creek segments of the Greenway Trails, including the Ingram Road Bridge, and the Mission Reach Trail Network which has been a lifeline to other multi-modal services in San Antonio and the County. The Mission Reach and its proximity to the San Antonio Missions National Parks have provided access and opportunities to underserved portions of Bexar County and the City for the past two decades, while hosting visitors from around the world to this designated United Nations Educational and Scientific Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

This important connection to the VIA Ingram Transit Center/Greenway Trailhead, with completion of this segment of the Howard W. Peak Greenway Trail System at Zarzamora Creek will support the regional growth in the western portions of the County and support the low-income communities of color with access to jobs and alternative modes of transportation such as transit and bicycling, which have been proven to improve the life-expectancy and well-being in communities of color. Additionally, this project will bring job growth in construction and maintenance as well as tourism-related opportunities, all of which helps stimulate our local economy.



Moreover, completion of the Greenway Trails adjacent to the SARA Westside Creeks Ecosystem Restoration Project will leverage the decades of investments made by the Army Corps of Engineers to return natural habitats to San Antonio's rivers and creeks.

I wholeheartedly support the Zarzamora Creek Greenway Trail Project and look forward to connecting more communities through sustainable and equitable projects such as this one.

Respectfully,

Richard Perez  
President and CEO