



THE
CHATT
CLIFTON HILLS ALTON PARK THREAD TRAIL



LINKING SOUTH CHATTANOOGA

FY 2024 RAISE GRANT APPLICATION EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

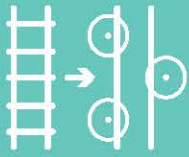
Submitted By:



In Partnership with:



PROJECT COMPONENTS



01 ALTON PARK CONNECTOR PHASE 3

A 0.8-mile segment on a former industrial railway corridor that will be transformed into a linear park, running from Southside Community Park to Alton Park Blvd., where it will connect to a 0.6 mile segment already funded. The already funded segment will link directly to the City's flagship Riverwalk Greenway, representing the first major residential neighborhood connection to the Riverwalk.



02 CLIFTON HILLS CONNECTOR

A 1.82-mile trail extension, running alongside a buried landfill and across the Chattanooga Creek connecting residents to community agricultural resources at Crabtree Farms in Clifton Hills. It then transitions on 32nd Street to a bike boulevard to improve safety, providing a safe crossing of the busy Rossville Boulevard (US-27) to Clifton Hills Elementary and the East Lake Neighborhood.

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

The Clifton Hills Alton Park Thread Trail (CHATT) project will link and revitalize a diverse collection of South Chattanooga lower-income communities of color, which have been cut off from opportunity and the renaissance of Chattanooga.

When all components are completed, The CHATT will be a 12-foot-wide shared-use path and bike boulevard extending 2.62 miles from the vibrant Tennessee Riverwalk greenway to Clifton Hills Elementary, linking residents amenities along the route, including Southside Community Park and Crabtree farms, a local nonprofit urban farm and a source of healthy food.

The CHATT trail project is divided into two components: the Alton Park Connector and the Clifton Hills Connector (see Project Overview map on page 2). A portion (0.6 miles) of the Alton Park Connector, Phase 1 and Phase 2, already has dedicated funding from the City of Chattanooga and a private developer, respectively.

A significant funding gap remains to complete the remaining portion of the Alton Park Connector (Phase 3) and the Clifton Hills Connector to complete the remaining 2.62 miles of the CHATT trail. These 2.62 miles are the focus of this RAISE grant application.

The trail will traverse through one of Chattanooga's most storied black communities, Alton Park, and a neighboring but separated, diverse community with a sizable Latino population, that still sequester lower-income urban communities of color today. Clifton Hills. **This urban trail will connect these tight-knit but isolated communities to the thriving Riverwalk.** Long challenged by industrial contamination and subsequent neglect. This project will embody these communities' stated goals of inclusivity, equity, mobility, opportunity, and safety and begin to mitigate the wrongs of pollution, segregation, and disinvestment

These goals speak to why the trail project has widespread community support. It will unlock brimming latent demand for multi-modal transportation, serving as a key east-west transportation corridor in a city divided by many industrial and geographic barriers, such as the railroads, rivers, and rolling ridges of the Tennessee Valley. **More than 35% of households/occupied housing units in Alton Park and almost 16% of those in Clifton Hills are without car access, compared to 8.3% in Chattanooga.** The trail will provide gravely needed equitable, active transportation options, contributing to a flourishing community where walking and biking are safe and abundant.

The trail's corridor also falls within a **Historically-Disadvantaged community or an Area of Persistent Poverty as defined by the Biden administration.**

PROJECT OUTCOMES



Formerly isolated communities are integrated into the opportunity streams of the broader, prospering City of Chattanooga by removing barriers and creating the first major community connection to the renowned Riverwalk.



Safer transportation by protected and comfortable guideways for walking and cycling. **Since 2017, nine pedestrian collisions and thirteen bicycle collisions occurred within 0.75 miles of the proposed trail alignment.**



A more livable environment with new access to the Tennessee River, and 3,000 acres of world-class green space and recreation amenities.



Greatly improved access to schools, food, health services, with new access to agriculture-based non-profits.



Economic revitalization of a historically black middle-class neighborhood, with a current black majority of 79%, and a community with a rapidly increasing Latino population, currently at 32%, by facilitating tourism, attracting investment and removing transportation barriers to vital commercial services.



Proposed view of the Alton Park Trail facing south near CSX Rail overhead crossing
2020 Alton Park Linear Park Draft Vision