



MEMORANDUM

To: CFGB Board
From: Gus Heard-Hughes, Senior Vice President of Programs
Date: 5/21/26
Re: Underpass Improvements

Background

An effort is under way, led by Claude Nielsen, to improve the underpasses below I-65 on the West side of UAB and downtown for the purpose of improving the appearance and safety of those areas. This is related to the Birmingham Gateways Initiative, which aims to improve and maintain the 'gateways' to the City of Birmingham. The plan is to add paint and add lighting in and around the underpasses at University Boulevard, 6th Ave S, 5th Ave S, 8th St, and potentially 2nd Ave S. The painting costs range from \$850,000 to \$955,000 and the lighting costs range from \$160,000 to \$200,000, depending on the final scope. ALDOT, UAB, the City of Birmingham, and Jefferson County are being approached to contribute to these costs, but some charitable dollars will help move the needle.

Recommendation

The Building Capacity recommended on 5/6/26 an allocation \$25,000 from CFGB Proactive funds to support this underpass improvement effort. Release of these funds would be conditioned on the balance of the cost being raised or otherwise covered. **We recommend that the CFGB Board approve this 5/6/26 recommendation from the Building Capacity Committee to allocation \$25,000 in CFGB Proactive funds to this project.**