

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 23, 2020

The Honorable K. Jane Williams
Acting Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Acting Administrator Williams:

We write in support of the S-Line Passenger Rail Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Planning application submitted by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) for the Federal Transit Administration's fiscal year 2020 Pilot Program for TOD Planning grant competition.

A comprehensive effort to facilitate TOD planning along the S-Line rail corridor in North Carolina will help communities integrate land use, economic development, and transportation connectivity as new passenger rail services develop. The portion of the S-Line from Sanford to Ridgeway, North Carolina will strengthen connections between Lee, Wake, Vance and Warren Counties, urban economic centers and the Northeast Corridor. It also builds on the recently awarded Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to acquire the S-Line corridor that we supported.

TOD planning will enhance economic development, maximize ridership, improve multimodal connectivity, and increase access to opportunities and services for the residents we represent in North Carolina's First and Fourth Congressional Districts. NCDOT has worked closely with these communities to understand the potential benefits and impacts that passenger rail service will have. We appreciate the opportunity to partner with NCDOT on this project and fully support their efforts to seek TOD planning funds through this grant opportunity.

The value of proactive planning cannot be understated given the regional and transformative nature of the S-Line project. This is an important opportunity to identify and plan for emerging infrastructure needs and foster long-term economic growth for both rural and urban areas of North Carolina which the S-Line will serve.

Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,


G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress


David E. Price
Member of Congress



October 20, 2020

The Honorable K. Jane Williams
Acting Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Acting Administrator Williams:

The Town of Apex is writing in support of the **S-Line Passenger Rail TOD Planning** application for the Federal Transit Administration's fiscal year 2020 Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Planning grant program.

A comprehensive effort to facilitate TOD planning along the S-Line rail corridor in North Carolina will help communities integrate land use, economic development, and transportation connectivity as new passenger rail services develop. The portion of the S-Line from Sanford to Ridgway, NC will strengthen connections between Lee, Wake, Vance and Warren Counties, urban economic centers and the Northeast Corridor. It also builds on the recently awarded Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to acquire the S-Line corridor.

TOD planning will enhance economic development, maximize ridership, improve multimodal connectivity, and increase access to opportunities and services for our residents. NCDOT has worked closely with our community to understand the potential benefits and impacts that passenger rail service will have. We appreciate the partnership we have with NCDOT on this project and fully support their efforts to seek TOD planning funds through this grant opportunity. Furthermore, given the tremendous benefits anticipated for our community, we are happy to commit \$40,000 in local funding to support this application.

The value of proactive planning cannot be understated given the regional and transformative nature of the S-Line project. This is a wonderful opportunity to identify and plan for infrastructure needs and foster long-term economic impact for the rural and urban areas of North Carolina which the S-Line will serve.

Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

Drew Havens
Town Manager



TOWN OF FRANKLINTON
101 NORTH MAIN ST.
FRANKLINTON, NC 27525

The Honorable K. Jane Williams
Acting Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Acting Administrator Williams:

The Town of Franklinton is writing in support of the **S-Line Passenger Rail TOD Planning** application for the Federal Transit Administration's fiscal year 2020 Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Planning grant program.

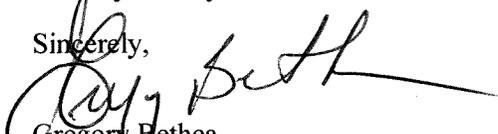
A comprehensive effort to facilitate TOD planning along the S-Line rail corridor in North Carolina will help communities integrate land use, economic development, and transportation connectivity as new passenger rail services develop. The portion of the S-Line from Sanford to Ridgway, NC will strengthen connections between Lee, Wake, Vance and Warren Counties, urban economic centers and the Northeast Corridor. It also builds on the recently awarded Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to acquire the S-Line corridor.

TOD planning will enhance economic development, maximize ridership, improve multimodal connectivity, and increase access to opportunities and services for our residents. NCDOT has worked closely with our community to understand the potential benefits and impacts that passenger rail service will have. We appreciate the partnership we have with NCDOT on this project and fully support their efforts to seek TOD planning funds through this grant opportunity. Furthermore, given the tremendous benefits anticipated for our community, we are happy to commit **\$30,000** in local funding to support this application.

The value of proactive planning cannot be understated given the regional and transformative nature of the S-Line project. This is a wonderful opportunity to identify and plan for infrastructure needs and foster long-term economic impact for the rural and urban areas of North Carolina which the S-Line will serve.

Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,



Gregory Bethea,
Town Manager



Office of the Mayor

134 Rose Avenue, P. O. Box 1434, Henderson, NC 27536

Phone 252.430.5708 : Fax 252.492.7935 : E-mail eellington@ci.henderson.nc.us

www.ci.henderson.nc.us

October 23, 2020

The Honorable K. Jane Williams
Acting Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Acting Administrator Williams:

The City of Henderson is writing in support of the **Connecting Rural and Urban Triangle Communities Through Equitable Transit Oriented Development Project** application for the Federal Transit Administration's fiscal year 2020 Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Planning grant program.

A comprehensive effort to facilitate TOD planning along the S-Line rail corridor in North Carolina will help communities integrate land use, economic development, and transportation connectivity as new passenger rail services develop. The portion of the S-Line from Sanford to Ridgeway, NC will strengthen connections between Lee, Wake, Vance and Warren Counties, urban economic centers and the Northeast Corridor. It also builds on the recently awarded Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to acquire the S-Line corridor.

TOD planning will enhance economic development, maximize ridership, improve multimodal connectivity, and increase access to opportunities and services for our residents. NCDOT has worked closely with our community to understand the potential benefits and impacts that passenger rail service will have. We appreciate the partnership we have with NCDOT on this project and fully support their efforts to seek TOD planning funds through this grant opportunity. Furthermore, given the tremendous benefits anticipated for our community, we are happy to commit **\$30,000** in non-federal local funding to support this application.

Henderson has station area responsibility and jurisdiction over the Henderson station and has land use planning authority to conduct comprehensive TOD planning work near the proposed station, as described in the application.

Federal Transit Administration

Page 2

November 10, 2020

The value of proactive planning cannot be understated given the regional and transformative nature of the Triangle North-South Rail Project. This is a wonderful opportunity to identify and plan for infrastructure needs and foster long-term economic impact for the rural and urban areas of North Carolina which the S-Line will serve.

Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eddie Ellington". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Eddie" and last name "Ellington" clearly distinguishable.

Eddie Ellington, Mayor
City of Henderson



October 26, 2020

Dwayne Weeks
Office of Planning & Environment
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Weeks:

Subject: NCDOT Grant Submittal to the FTA Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development Planning

The City of Raleigh is pleased to endorse the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) grant submittal for the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Planning. NCDOT's grant submittal will support development along the 10-mile section of rail line between Raleigh and Ridgeway, known as the S-Line. The FTA grant program enables local communities to integrate land use and transportation planning to further advance fixed guideway and/or core capacity transit capital investments.

The City of Raleigh is committed to enhancing the transportation network in our community and is a proud local and regional transportation partner. With NCDOT's recent grant award to purchase this critical section of the S-Line, this project will help restore transportation opportunities between Raleigh, NC and Richmond, VA. It will provide a more expeditious route between the two cities and connect local communities to increased transportation options.

If approved, this grant will further NCDOT's support of Raleigh's strategic plan objectives, to include *Connecting the City's transportation network to the region through partnerships*. This project will also improve mobility and congestion, which will benefit the city and region, collectively. The City of Raleigh will be a financial contributor (up to \$150,000 in non-federal local funding, as approved by the Raleigh City Council on October 20, 2020) and provide staff support for the advancement of TOD planning and other strategic decisions in this important corridor.

The City of Raleigh proudly supports this grant submission and the great benefits anticipated for our local and regional communities.

Sincerely,

Mary-Ann Baldwin
Mayor

CC: J. Eric Boyette, Secretary, N.C. Department of Transportation
Michael Moore, Director, Raleigh Department of Transportation

(919) 777-1103
P.O. Box 3729
Sanford, NC 27331-3729



City of Sanford

Residence: (919) 774-7494
Email: chet.mann@sanfordnc.net

T. Chet Mann
Mayor

October 20, 2020

The Honorable K. Jane Williams
Acting Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Acting Administrator Williams:

The City of Sanford is writing in support of the S-Line Passenger Rail TOD Planning application for the Federal Transit Administration's fiscal year 2020 Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Planning grant program.

A comprehensive effort to facilitate TOD planning along the S-Line rail corridor in North Carolina will help communities integrate land use, economic development, and transportation connectivity as new passenger rail services develop. The portion of the S-Line from Sanford to Ridgeway, North Carolina, will strengthen connections between Lee, Wake, Vance and Warren Counties, urban economic centers and the Northeast Corridor. It also builds on the recently awarded Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to acquire the S-Line corridor.

TOD planning will enhance economic development, maximize ridership, improve multimodal connectivity, and increase access to opportunities and services for our residents. NCDOT has worked closely with our community to understand the potential benefits and impacts that passenger rail service will have. We appreciate the partnership we have with NCDOT on this project and fully support their efforts to seek TOD planning funds through this grant opportunity. Furthermore, given the tremendous benefits anticipated for our community, we are happy to commit \$30,000 in local funding to support this application.

The value of proactive planning cannot be understated given the regional and transformative nature of the S-Line project. This is a wonderful opportunity to identify and plan for infrastructure needs and foster long-term economic impact for the rural and urban areas of North Carolina which the S-Line will serve.

Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

T. Chet Mann
Mayor



TOWN of WAKE FOREST

301 S. Brooks Street
Wake Forest, NC 27587
t 919.435.9400

www.wakeforestnc.gov

The Honorable K. Jane Williams
Acting Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Acting Administrator Williams:

The Town of Wake Forest, NC is writing in support of the **S-Line Passenger Rail TOD Planning** application for the Federal Transit Administration's fiscal year 2020 Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Planning grant program.

A comprehensive effort to facilitate TOD planning along the S-Line rail corridor in North Carolina will help communities integrate land use, economic development, and transportation connectivity as new passenger rail services develop. The portion of the S-Line from Sanford to Ridgway, NC will strengthen connections between Lee, Wake, Vance and Warren Counties, urban economic centers and the Northeast Corridor. It also builds on the recently awarded Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to acquire the S-Line corridor.

TOD planning will enhance economic development, maximize ridership, improve multimodal connectivity, and increase access to opportunities and services for our residents. NCDOT has worked closely with our community to understand the potential benefits and impacts that passenger rail service will have. We appreciate the partnership we have with NCDOT on this project and fully support their efforts to seek TOD planning funds through this grant opportunity. Furthermore, given the tremendous benefits anticipated for our community, we are happy to commit **\$90,000** in local funding to support this application.

The value of proactive planning cannot be understated given the regional and transformative nature of the S-Line project. This is a wonderful opportunity to identify and plan for infrastructure needs and foster long-term economic impact for the rural and urban areas of North Carolina which the S-Line will serve.

Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

Vivian A. Jones
Mayor, Wake Forest



Triangle Area Rural Planning Organization
A program of Triangle J Council of Governments

4307 Emperor Boulevard, Suite 110, Durham, NC 27703
(919) 549-0551 www.tarpo.org

October 20, 2020

Julie White
Deputy Secretary of Multi-modal Transportation
North Carolina Department of Transportation
1501 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1501

Dear Ms. White,

The Triangle Area Rural Planning Organization (TARPO) serves a four county area in central North Carolina. TARPO provides transportation planning services to its member governments, which include Lee County and the City of Sanford. We are aware of NCDOT's efforts to coordinate on a grant opportunity for studying transit-oriented development (TOD) around potential commuter rail stops in the 'S-Line' corridor, including a potential stop in the City of Sanford.

As an organization with a very limited budget, TARPO is unable to contribute financially at this time; however, TARPO staff supports the planned effort and agrees to participate in the process with staff time/involvement and technical assistance. Additionally, staff will formally request a resolution of support for the project from the TARPO Rural Transportation Advisory Committee, our governing board, at its next meeting on December 10, 2020.

We are very excited by this opportunity and look forward to working together with NCDOT on this project!

Sincerely,

Matthew Day
Principal Planner
Triangle Area Rural Planning Organization

October 20, 2020

The Honorable K. Jane Williams
Acting Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Acting Administrator Williams:

Warren County, NC is writing in support of the S-Line Passenger Rail TOD Planning application for the Federal Transit Administration's fiscal year 2020 Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Planning grant program.

As a native of Warren County, born and raised, developing pathways into our community is incredibly important to me. More than any other county on this corridor, Warren County experiences that rural "brain drain." Opportunities for growth and development- whether they are transportation oriented or otherwise- are invaluable to us as we look for way to build a connection to our region, as well as a pathway to a home and a future for our residents (and new residents to come). The connectivity opportunity for our residents into larger areas will be an important tool for our community development.

A comprehensive effort to facilitate TOD planning along the S-Line rail corridor in North Carolina will help communities integrate land use, economic development, and transportation connectivity as new passenger rail services develop. The portion of the S-Line from Sanford to Ridgway, NC will strengthen connections between Lee, Wake, Vance and Warren Counties, urban economic centers and the Northeast Corridor. It also builds on the recently awarded Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to acquire the S-Line corridor.

TOD planning will enhance economic development, maximize ridership, improve multimodal connectivity, and increase access to opportunities and services for our residents. We fully support NC DOT's efforts to seek TOD planning funds through this grant opportunity.

The value of proactive planning cannot be understated given the regional and transformative nature of the S-Line project. This is a wonderful opportunity to identify and plan for infrastructure needs and foster long-term economic impact for the rural and urban areas of North Carolina which the S-Line will serve.

Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

Charla Duncan, Economic Development Director
Senior Assistant to the County Manager
Warren County, NC



NC Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

The Honorable K. Jane Williams
Acting Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Acting Administrator Williams:

The NC Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization is writing in support of the **S-Line Passenger Rail TOD Planning** application for the Federal Transit Administration's fiscal year 2020 Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Planning grant program.

A comprehensive effort to facilitate TOD planning along the S-Line rail corridor in North Carolina will help communities integrate land use, economic development, and transportation connectivity as new passenger rail services develop. The portion of the S-Line from Sanford to Ridgway, NC will strengthen connections between Lee, Wake, Vance and Warren Counties, urban economic centers and the Northeast Corridor. It also builds on the recently awarded Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to acquire the S-Line corridor.

TOD planning will enhance economic development, maximize ridership, improve multimodal connectivity, and increase access to opportunities and services for our residents. NCDOT has worked closely with communities in our region to understand the potential benefits and impacts that passenger rail service will have in this corridor. We appreciate the partnership we have with NCDOT on this project and fully support their efforts to seek TOD planning funds through this grant opportunity. Furthermore, given the tremendous benefits anticipated for the communities in our region, we anticipate including planning funds in our FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to support this effort.

The value of proactive planning cannot be understated given the regional and transformative nature of the S-Line project. This is a wonderful opportunity to identify and plan for infrastructure needs and foster long-term economic impact for the rural and urban areas of North Carolina which the S-Line will serve.

Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Lukasina".

Chris Lukasina, AICP, GISP
Capital Area MPO