

Transit Alliance of the Piedmont - Community Bike Shop



Board of Directors

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RE: East Greensboro Greenway application to the USDOT's 2023 ATIIP Grant program

June 10th, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Please accept this letter of support from the Transit Alliance of the Piedmont and the Community Bike Shop at Barber Park in Greensboro NC for the East Greensboro Greenway's (or "the Project's") application to the USDOT's 2023 Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP) Grant program. This collaborative project, spearheaded by the City of Greensboro (the City) with support from the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), will complete environmental review and 100% design for a 6.6-mile, active transportation network from downtown Greensboro to the low-income east side where we operate, located primarily in census tracts with poverty rates of 40 percent or more. The project goal is to become a vital asset developed hand-in-hand with the community – a greenway that is safe, fun and inclusive for people of all ages and abilities and reflective of East Greensboro's culture and creative spark.

The Project will connect the J. Douglas Gaylon Intermodal Depot, which provides regional and local passenger rail service and is the City of Greensboro's main hub for local, regional, and intercity bus service to Barber Park, a 109-acre park that offers a variety of recreational amenities, including our community-run bike shop. Along the way, the Project will connect key community destinations, two Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs); seven K-12 schools; and several neighborhood parks, including Bingham Park, a 13-acre park that like Barber Park was developed atop a former waste disposal site and currently undergoing remediation as the City strives for environmental justice. Additionally, the project provides first- and last-mile connections to Greensboro Transit Agency bus routes by integrating with the City's new Crossmax bus service and PART, Greyhound, and Amtrak regional intercity transit services.

Transit Alliance of the Piedmont
111 W. Lewis Street, Greensboro NC 27406
Website: <http://www.transitalliancepiedmont.org>
Email: transitalliancepiedmont@gmail.com

Transit Alliance of the Piedmont is an educational 501(c)(3), EIN 47-5483317, with a mission to promote enhancements to Piedmont Triad's multi-modal transportation network that spur economic development, encourage regional equity, improve health and safety, protect natural resources, build community, and connect people to opportunities.

Community Bike Shop at Barber Park
1500-112 Barber Park Dr, Greensboro NC 27401
336-338-8382
bikesatbarber@gmail.com

The Community Bike Shop at Barber Park in Greensboro NC exists to reduce barriers to quality of life by providing access to transportation, fun, and community.

When it is eventually built, the East Greensboro Greenway project will bring about a transformative change for the community by addressing historical issues of underinvestment and detrimental land use and transportation policies which prioritized vehicular travel while neglecting other transportation options, such as bicycling, walking, and public transit. This Project will provide residents and visitors with more options for commuting routes; improve bicyclist and pedestrian safety by providing a separated facility and implementing proven countermeasures at road crossings.

Transit Alliance of the Piedmont is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that sponsors several programs, most notably the Community Bike Shop at Barber Park in Greensboro NC. Our programs address systemic health inequities by impacting the social and environmental factors that drive health equity. Our main programs at Barber Park include firstly the processing of over 800 donated bicycles annually, fixing up half of them to be given to locally-settled refugee families from Afghanistan, Iraq, and Congo, and workforce bicycles to local residents experiencing homelessness, and recycling the rest of the bikes; and secondly, we run a bike-lending library, allowing any resident to borrow a bicycle for free, for both kids and adults, for exercise around our huge city park.

The East Greensboro Greenway will create a safer and more equitable active transportation network in Greensboro. We strongly encourage you to favorably consider Greensboro's East Greensboro Greenway grant application for ATIIP funding.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me, (336) 459-0711 (text only, no voice service) or bikewalla@gmail.com, or the project lead listed above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Herman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sheldon Herman

Co-Chair, Transit Alliance of the Piedmont & The Community Bike Shop at Barber Park