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June 14, 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 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 in downtown Greensboro located primarily in census tracts with poverty rates of 40 percent or more. Its goal is to become a vital asset developed hand-in-hand with the community – a greenway that is safe 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 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 a community run-bike shop. Along the way, the Project will connect key community destinations, two Historically Black College or University (HBCUs); seven K-12 schools; and several neighborhood parks, including Bingham Park, a 13-acre park 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 service.

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.

As a minority serving institution (MSI) with Title III program eligibility under the Higher Education Act of 1965, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro is proud to be a leader advancing research with the goal of impacting the public. Given the significant amount of work that we at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, are involved with in Greensboro's community, and given our proximity to downtown Greensboro, we are extremely interested in the success of the proposed work as it will directly support a large population of our students and staff, as well as communities we work with directly.

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

Sincerely,



Terri L. Shelton, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement
Carol Jenkins Mattocks Distinguished Professor
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Sherine O. Obare, Ph.D.
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