



NORTH CAROLINA™  
**NCPTA**  
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION

December 18, 2023  
The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Thank you for your recent visit to support our multi-modal transportation efforts in North Carolina. Our state continues to set the pace for innovation in America. **CREATE** is the next step to fulfill the state's vision to deliver transit more equitably to everyone with a focus on underserved and rural populations.

Please accept this strong letter of support from our statewide transit Association for the **Connected, Rural, Equitable, and Autonomous Transportation for Everyone (CREATE)** grant application to the United States Department of Transportation's Advanced Transportation Technology and Innovation (ATTAIN) program.

The modernization and automation of public transportation in North Carolina is vital to creating vibrant and safe communities by connecting people to places, addressing mobility needs, and increasing high-quality transportation choices for all people.

Led by the North Carolina Department of Transportation Integrated Mobility Division (NCDOT IMD), **CREATE** advances NCDOT's vision and strategy to partner with May Mobility, Via, Toyota, the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA), North Carolina Agricultural and Technical (NC A&T) State University, transit agencies, stakeholders and private industry to deliver safe, affordable, convenient, and expanded transit services using advanced technology, including on-board human-assisted Automated Driving System (ADS)-equipped and accessible micro-transit services that connect transportation disadvantaged rural communities to essential life sustaining services and job opportunities including:

- Bridgestone America's tire manufacturing facility, the single largest industrial employer in Wilson County, NC with over 1,800 employees;
- A new FedEx distribution facility; and
- A new production facility, Diversified Opportunities, Inc., that hires individuals with developmental disabilities.

Thank you for your strong consideration of this grant request.

Sincerely,

*David Rhew*

Executive Director, North Carolina Public Transportation Association