

February 2, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of RTA, the voice of the regional business community on transportation in the metropolitan Research Triangle area, I am writing to express our support for the **C**onected, **R**ural, **E**quitable, and **A**utonomous Transportation for **E**veryone (**CREATE**) grant application to USDOT's Advanced Transportation Technology and Innovation (ATTAIN) program.

CREATE will advance NCDOT's vision and strategy to partner with May Mobility, Via, Toyota, the Community Transportation Association of America, NC A&T State University, transit agencies, and private industry to deliver safe, affordable, convenient, and expanded transit services.

CREATE will provide on-board human-assisted Automated Driving System (ADS)-equipped and accessible microtransit that connects rural communities to job opportunities and vital services.


CREATE will build on the successful Wilson RIDE microtransit service by providing access to many key destinations and businesses in the community and adding connections to:

- Bridgestone America's tire manufacturing facility, with over 1,800 employees;
- A new FedEx distribution facility; and the
- Diversified Opportunities, Inc. facility that hires individuals with developmental disabilities.

The RTA business coalition represents more than 100 leading companies and 25 chambers of commerce across 13 counties, including Wilson County. We are committed to mobility solutions that improve the lives and economy of our region, which this innovative program will do.

I urge your full consideration of the NCDOT CREATE grant application for FY'23 ATTAIN program funding. Please contact me at 919.664.7065 or joe@letsgetmoving.org with questions.

Sincerely,



Joe Milazzo II, PE
Executive Director,
Regional Transportation Alliance