



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 12, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Please accept this letter of support 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. 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 and leaders, 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 microtransit services that connect transportation disadvantaged rural communities to essential 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.

CREATE builds on North Carolina's experience with the Connected Autonomous Shuttle Supporting Innovation (CASSI) program and existing on-demand and shared mobility efforts by testing and integrating automated vehicles (AVs) into rural transit fleets. The technology is expected to deliver economic benefits through safe, reliable, and efficient access to employment, key destinations, and services in these rural communities. CREATE will support multiple USDOT focus areas, including advanced public transportation systems, the ROUTES Initiative, and the Complete Trip Program, as well as meaningfully improve the lives and economies of North

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Secretary Buttigieg

January 12, 2024

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Carolinians by increasing access to healthcare, employment, education, and other services while piloting and evaluating AVs to make these connections.

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

Thank you for considering the CREATE grant application for ATTAIN program funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. G. Davis', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Donald G. Davis

Member of Congress



North Carolina General Assembly
House of Representatives

REPRESENTATIVE KEN FONTENOT
24TH DISTRICT

January, 19th 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

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- Bridgestone America's tire manufacturing facility, the single largest industrial employer in Wilson County, NC with over 1,800 employees;
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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. 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.

Thank you for considering the CREATE grant application for ATTAIN program funding.

Sincerely,



UPPER COASTAL PLAIN
RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

January 17, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Please accept this letter of support 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. 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 and leaders, 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 microtransit services that connect transportation disadvantaged rural communities to essential services and job opportunities including:

- Building on the successful Wilson RIDE microtransit service by adding connections to Bridgestone America's tire manufacturing facility, the single largest industrial employer in Wilson County, NC with over 1,800 employees, and;
- Establishing a new fixed route circulator service as an additional transit option alongside the existing demand response service in Asheboro, NC. The new service will connect to multiple employers and key destinations in downtown Asheboro, NC, including Randolph Health with more than 1,000 employees, the Asheboro Senior Center, and the YMCA.

CREATE builds on North Carolina's experience with the Connected Autonomous Shuttle Supporting Innovation (CASSI) program as well as existing on-demand and shared mobility efforts by testing and integrating automated vehicles (AVs) into rural transit fleets. Technology is expected to deliver economic benefits through safe, reliable, and efficient access to employment, key destinations, and services in these rural communities. **CREATE** will support multiple USDOT focus areas, including advanced public transportation systems, the ROUTES Initiative, and Complete Trip Program as well as meaningfully improve the lives and economies of North Carolinians by increasing access to healthcare, employment, education, and other services while piloting and evaluating AVs to make these connections.

The Upper Coastal Plain Rural Planning Organization (UCPRPO) has two-member transit agencies within its planning boundaries who have recently invested in microtransit pilot projects with the help of funding programs like the ATTAIN program. These pilot projects have proven to be successful in their communities by providing increased flexibility, on-demand services, reduced congestion, and improved first/last mile connectivity in transportation services to underserved citizens. There are other transit providers within our planning area interested in investing in microtransit services within their services areas as well.


UPPER COASTAL PLAIN
RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

The UCPRPO has seen the benefits of funding projects through the CREATE grant program first hand and strongly supports NCDOT's CREATE grant application for ATTAIN program funding.

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. **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.

Thank you for considering the **CREATE** grant application for ATTAIN program funding.

Sincerely,


C.B. Brown
UCPRPO TAC Chair



January 16, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Please accept this letter of support 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. 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 and leaders, and private industry to deliver safe, affordable, convenient, and expanded transit services using advanced technology. CREATE will provide on-board human-assisted Automated Driving System (ADS)-equipped and accessible microtransit services that connect transportation disadvantaged rural communities to essential services and job opportunities. 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:

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- A new FedEx distribution facility; and
- A new production facility, Diversified Opportunities, Inc., that hires individuals with developmental disabilities.

CREATE builds on North Carolina's experience with the Connected Autonomous Shuttle Supporting Innovation (CASSI) program as well as existing on-demand and shared mobility efforts by testing and integrating automated vehicles (AVs) into rural transit fleets. The technology is expected to deliver economic benefits through safe, reliable, and efficient access to employment, key destinations, and services in these rural communities. CREATE will support multiple USDOT focus areas, including advanced public transportation systems, the ROUTES Initiative, and Complete Trip Program as well as meaningfully improve the lives and economies of North Carolinians by increasing access to healthcare, employment, education, and other services while piloting and evaluating AVs to make these connections.

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. 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. Thank you for considering the CREATE grant application for ATTAIN program funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer J Lantz', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jennifer J Lantz
Executive Director



January 30th,2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Please accept this letter of support 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. 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 and leaders, 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 microtransit services that connect transportation disadvantaged rural communities to essential services and job opportunities including:

- Building on the successful Wilson RIDE microtransit service by adding connections to Bridgestone America's tire manufacturing facility, the single largest industrial employer in Wilson County, NC with over 1,800 employees, and;
- Establishing a new fixed route circulator service as an additional transit option alongside the existing demand response service in Asheboro, NC. The new service will connect to multiple employers and key destinations in downtown Asheboro, NC, including Randolph Health with more than 1,000 employees, the Asheboro Senior Center, and the YMCA.

CREATE builds on North Carolina's experience with the Connected Autonomous Shuttle Supporting Innovation (CASSI) program as well as existing on-demand and shared mobility efforts by testing and integrating automated vehicles (AVs) into rural transit fleets. The technology is expected to deliver economic benefits through safe, reliable, and efficient access to employment, key destinations, and services in these rural communities. CREATE will support multiple USDOT focus areas, including advanced public transportation systems, the ROUTES Initiative, and Complete Trip Program as well as meaningfully improve the lives and economies of North Carolinians by increasing access to healthcare, employment, education, and other services while piloting and evaluating AVs to make these connections. NC A&T State University, which is currently leading a regional University Transportation Center (UTC) on rural transportation for US Southeast, will provide access to a first-of-its-kind rural autonomous vehicle test track to evaluate the performance and capabilities of the vehicles before they are deployed for public transportation. NCA&T researchers also will also contribute to the data analysis regarding the assessment of the impact of the deployment of vehicles and the related human factors.

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. 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.



Thank you for considering the CREATE grant application for ATTAIN program funding.

Sincerely,

Eric R. Muth

Eric R. Muth, PhD

Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development

Division of Research and Economic Development

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

1601 East Market Street

Fort IRC Building

Greensboro, NC 27411

336-334-7314 | ermuth@ncat.edu



Jan 29, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

May Mobility would like to offer our strong support 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. CREATE advances the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT)'s vision and strategy – led by the state's Integrated Mobility Division (IMD) – to partner with transit agencies and leaders, private industry, and the research community to deliver affordable, convenient, safe, and expanded transit services to transportation disadvantaged communities in rural areas using advanced technology. CREATE builds on North Carolina's existing on-demand and shared mobility efforts and seeks to evolve the state's Connected Autonomous Shuttle Supporting Innovation (CASSI) program by piloting and evaluating higher speed, Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS)-compliant autonomous vehicles (AVs) through testing and integrating the vehicles into rural transit fleets.

Under the proposed grant, NCDOT IMD will partner with May Mobility, Via, Toyota, the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA), and North Carolina Agricultural and Technical (NC A&T) State University to deliver autonomy-enabled and accessible microtransit services that connect transportation disadvantaged communities to essential services and job opportunities, such as:

- 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;
- A new production facility, Diversified Opportunities, Inc., that hires individuals with developmental disabilities; and
- A variety of grocers, healthcare facilities, and senior centers

A strong community engagement effort through CREATE will focus on educating the community and gathering feedback to help guide the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the project. This engagement will be designed to raise awareness and interest in CREATE, demonstrate the safety and ease of using automated vehicles, and measure how these services impact transportation disadvantaged communities.

Microtransit is a technology-enabled, shared mobility service that typically uses vehicles to provide pooled, on-demand transportation with dynamic routing. It provides several benefits to riders including more efficient and responsive service, shorter wait and travel times, and flexibility to address changing mobility needs. By integrating AVs into microtransit services, CREATE is intended to enable NCDOT IMD to gather data and information to better

understand the impact of AVs within the transit context, including assessing the readiness of the state, diverse communities, the technology, and FTA for autonomous driving while also providing useful transit service that supports workforce development, improved mobility, and better access to key destinations and services. On-demand service zones and routes supported by CREATE are designed to address local gaps in the transit system and are informed by NCDOT's Transportation Disadvantage Index (TDI) tool that uses six quantitative indicators (race, income, personal vehicle access, people with mobility impairments, the elderly and youth) to identify populations facing barriers to transportation access.

May Mobility will demonstrate its autonomous driving technology under the CREATE grant using wheelchair accessible, FMVSS-compliant, hybrid-electric Sienna Autono-MaaS (S-AM) passenger vans. The standard S-AM can operate up to 30 miles per hour at SAE Level 4 autonomy in specified environments, including those with mixed traffic. The S-AM also provides seating for up to five passengers. The wheelchair accessible S-AM will be operated under the supervision of an AV operator, or safety driver, and can accommodate one wheelchair rider and two additional passengers. May AVs have been deployed in 12 cities to date carrying over 350,000 passengers. Via will provide the software for managing the microtransit service and the AVs will operate in mixed fleets alongside manually operated vehicles.

CREATE is committed to safe, environmentally-conscious, equitable and accessible autonomous travel. The hybrid vehicles are designed to be accessible with ADA-compliant wheelchair ramps, and safety operators are trained to assist wheelchair users and others with mobility limitations. NC A&T State University will provide access to a first-of-its-kind rural autonomous vehicle test track to evaluate the performance and capabilities of the vehicles before they are deployed as public transportation.

Rural communities that lack adequate transportation options encounter formidable barriers to jobs, hindering opportunities to enhance their quality of life. This can lead to problems like poorer health outcomes, reduced safety, and limited economic development opportunities. By addressing rural transit, CREATE will meaningfully improve the lives and economies of North Carolinians by increasing access to healthcare, employment, education, and other services, while piloting and evaluating AVs to make these connections. By addressing challenges faced by rural areas and increasing transportation options for all travelers, CREATE supports multiple FHWA focus areas, including advanced public transportation systems, the ROUTES Initiative, and Complete Trip Program. The program is consistent with ATTAIN program goals, including improvement in the mobility of people and goods, integration of advanced technologies into transportation system management and operations, and incentivizing travelers to share trips. Additionally, this program will identify areas where regulatory changes are needed to further the advancement of AV integration in rural America and may be used as a template of scale for Departments of Transportation across the country.

The modernization and automation of public transportation in North Carolina is vital to creating vibrant and inclusive communities by connecting people to places, addressing mobility needs, and increasing high-quality transportation choices for all people. CREATE fulfills the state's vision to deliver transit more equitably to everyone with a focus on underserved and rural populations.

Thank you for considering the CREATE grant application for ATTAIN program funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daisy Wall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daisy Wall, Senior Director of Government Business
May Mobility



January 17, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Please accept this letter of support 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. 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 and leaders, and private industry to deliver safe, affordable, convenient, and expanded transit services using advanced technology. **CREATE** will provide on-board human-assisted Automated Driving System (ADS)-equipped and accessible microtransit services that connect transportation disadvantaged rural communities to essential services and job opportunities. **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:

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Via is the world's leading provider of TransitTech solutions, including on-demand transit, transit planning, and school transportation. Via partners with cities and transit agencies across the globe, harnessing the power of data to optimize networks of buses, shuttles, wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAVs), school buses, autonomous vehicles, electric vehicles, and more. Via powers over 600 TransitTech deployments globally and, for each of its deployments, Via configures its system to serve each partners' unique goals while bringing global expertise to bear on local challenges. Via has been a long-standing partner of the Wilson RIDE service, managing both the operations and software provision



since project inception. For Project CREATE, Via will continue provide the software for managing the microtransit service and the AVs will operate in mixed fleets alongside manually operated vehicles.

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. **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.

Thank you for considering the **CREATE** grant application for ATTAIN program funding.

Sincerely,

Zack Wasserman

DocuSigned by:
Zack Wasserman
59BB4A4E225C423...

Chief Strategy Officer, Via Transportation, Inc.
Manager, Via Mobility LLC

January 17, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As a passenger of Wilson, North Carolina's RIDE on-demand service, I am writing this letter to show my support for the Connected, Rural, Equitable, and Autonomous Transportation for Everyone (**CREATE**) grant application the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is submitting to the Advanced Transportation Technology and Innovation (ATTAIN) program.

I have heard that the NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division's goal is to deliver safe, affordable, convenient, and expanded transit services using advanced technology. The City of Wilson's new on-demand service, RIDE, does exactly that. I can schedule my trips through an app on my phone. This service has enabled me to obtain and keep employment as well as get to doctor appointments, etc. This is something that I could not do prior to them implementing RIDE.

I understand that the CREATE project will improve the service and help me to reach more opportunities and even preschedule some of my rides. I am also interested in learning more about the automated vehicles and using them for my trips.

Please consider the **CREATE** grant application for ATTAIN program funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harvey Faison". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

January 17, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As a passenger of Wilson, North Carolina's RIDE on-demand service, I am writing this letter to show my support for the Connected, Rural, Equitable, and Autonomous Transportation for Everyone (CREATE) grant application the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is submitting to the Advanced Transportation Technology and Innovation (ATTAIN) program.

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Please consider the CREATE grant application for ATTAIN program funding.

Sincerely, 



Phone: 800.891.0590 | 1341 G Street NW, Suite 210, Washington, DC 20005

January 25, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Please accept this letter of support 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. 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 and leaders, and private industry to deliver safe, affordable, convenient, and expanded transit services using advanced technology. **CREATE** will provide on-board human-assisted Automated Driving System (ADS)-equipped and accessible microtransit services that connect transportation disadvantaged rural communities to essential services and job opportunities. **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:

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- A new production facility, Diversified Opportunities, Inc., that hires individuals with developmental disabilities.

CREATE builds on North Carolina's experience with the Connected Autonomous Shuttle Supporting Innovation (CASSI) program as well as existing on-demand and shared mobility efforts by testing and integrating automated vehicles (AVs) into rural transit fleets. The technology is expected to deliver economic benefits through safe, reliable, and efficient access to employment, key destinations, and services in these rural communities. **CREATE** will support multiple USDOT focus areas, including advanced public transportation systems, the ROUTES Initiative, and Complete Trip Program as well as meaningfully improve the lives and economies of North Carolinians by increasing access to healthcare, employment, education, and other services while piloting and evaluating AVs to make these connections.



Phone: 800.891.0590 | 1341 G Street NW, Suite 210, Washington, DC 20005

The Community Transportation Association of America has agreed to serve as both a partner and supporter of this project because our members believe that smaller city and rural applications of technologies like those partnered in **CREATE** must be funded and implemented. CTAA will ensure that the results, applicability and lessons learned and widely shared with the smaller transit audience.

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. **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.

Thank you for considering the **CREATE** grant application for ATTAIN program funding.

Sincerely,

Scott Bogren
Executive Director



01/17/2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Please accept this letter of support 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. 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 and leaders, and private industry to deliver safe, affordable, convenient, and expanded transit services using advanced technology. **CREATE** will provide on-board human-assisted Automated Driving System (ADS)-equipped and accessible microtransit services that connect transportation disadvantaged rural communities to essential services and job opportunities. **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:

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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. **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.



Thank you for considering the **CREATE** grant application for ATTAIN program funding.

Sincerely,

Kathie Davis
CEO Foundation YMCA

Kathie Davis



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



December 22, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Please accept this letter of support 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. 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 and leaders, and private industry to deliver safe, affordable, convenient, and expanded transit services. These services use advanced technology such as on-board human-assisted Automated Driving System (ADS)-equipped and accessible microtransit services that connect transportation disadvantaged rural communities to essential services and job opportunities by:

- 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.

CREATE builds on North Carolina's experience with the Connected Autonomous Shuttle Supporting Innovation (CASSI) program as well as existing on-demand and shared mobility efforts by testing and integrating automated vehicles (AVs) into rural transit fleets. The technology is expected to deliver economic benefits through safe, reliable, and efficient access to employment, key destinations, and services in these rural communities. **CREATE** will support multiple USDOT focus areas, including advanced public transportation systems, the ROUTES Initiative, and Complete Trip Program as well as meaningfully improve the lives and economies of North Carolinians by increasing access to healthcare, employment, education, and other services while piloting and evaluating AVs to make these connections.

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, including rural communities. Lack of transportation options contributes to the formidable barriers such communities face that lead to problems such as poorer health outcomes, reduced safety, and limited economic development. **CREATE** is the next step to fulfill the state's vision to combat these barriers and deliver transit more equitably to everyone with a focus on underserved and rural populations.

I thank you for considering the **CREATE** grant application for ATTAIN program funding.

Sincerely,



Patrick Woodie

President, NC Rural Center

Nelle Hotchkiss	919.250.4314
Chair	ncruralcenter.org
Patrick N. Woodie	4021 Carya Drive
President	Raleigh, NC 27610

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



Wilson Forward
PO Box 1764
Wilson, NC 27894
www.wilsonforward.org

1/19/2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Please accept this letter of support 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. 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 and leaders, and private industry to deliver safe, affordable, convenient, and expanded transit services using advanced technology. **CREATE** will provide on-board human-assisted Automated Driving System (ADS)-equipped and accessible microtransit services that connect transportation disadvantaged rural communities to essential services and job opportunities. **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:

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CREATE builds on North Carolina's experience with the Connected Autonomous Shuttle Supporting Innovation (CASSI) program as well as existing on-demand and shared mobility efforts by testing and integrating automated vehicles (AVs) into rural transit fleets. The technology is expected to deliver economic benefits through safe, reliable, and efficient access to employment, key destinations, and services in these rural communities. **CREATE** will support multiple USDOT focus areas, including advanced public transportation systems, the ROUTES Initiative, and Complete Trip Program as well as meaningfully improve the lives and economies of North Carolinians by increasing access to healthcare, employment, education, and other services while piloting and evaluating AVs to make these connections.

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. **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.

Thank you for considering the **CREATE** grant application for ATTAIN program funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cameron Cochran".

Cameron Cochran
Executive Director, Wilson Forward
336.965.3902



WILSON HOUSING AUTHORITY
301 E. NASH STREET
P.O. BOX 185
WILSON, NC 27894-0185

President/CEO
Kelly Vick

Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Please accept this letter of support 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. 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 and leaders, and private industry to deliver safe, affordable, convenient, and expanded transit services using advanced technology. **CREATE** will provide on-board human-assisted Automated Driving System (ADS)-equipped and accessible microtransit services that connect transportation disadvantaged rural communities to essential services and job opportunities. **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:

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Thank you for considering the **CREATE** grant application for ATTAIN program funding.

Sincerely,

Kelly Vick 1/17/2024