



January 21, 2025

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

Dear Secretary,

Please accept this letter of support for **John Street Corridor Improvements** (the Project) application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program. This project is a collaborative partnership between the Town of Matthews and the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to retrofit approximately 1.4 miles of John Street between NC 51 and Greylock Ridge Road to improve safety, mobility, and quality of life. The Project will promote the Town's economic development by improving access to local businesses, reducing transportation costs, and enhancing the unique character of the Town.

John Street serves as a vital connection between Matthews's residents, visitors, and businesses and is the town's primary link to the regional transportation network. Traveling this corridor on foot or by bicycle is dangerous due to the lack of safe crossings and separated bicycle and pedestrian facilities while traffic congestion leads to queue jumping, speeding, and other dangerous driver behaviors. To address this challenge, the Project will manage driver speeds and improve safety and accessibility for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit riders along John Street by closing gaps in the sidewalk network and constructing a new 4,330 linear foot shared use path to create a continuous multimodal network while improving pedestrian safety at intersections through a host of countermeasures like high visibility crossings, curb extensions, and pedestrian hybrid beacons. Additionally, the Project will implement new midblock crossings in areas with high demand and improve the experience of transit riders by optimizing stop locations and adding bus shelters and benches. The implementation of planting strips, landscaped medians, and green stormwater infrastructure will address flooding and erosion concerns that affect access to local businesses and create unsafe conditions for travelers while creating a more vibrant and attractive corridor.

The Matthews Area Chamber of Commerce represents over 300 local businesses that rely on safe, efficient, and accessible infrastructure to support their operations and connect with customers. John Street is a critical corridor for commerce in our community, providing direct access to many small businesses, restaurants, retail shops, and professional services. By improving mobility and safety along this route, the Project will not only enhance the experience of residents and visitors but also bolster economic activity by reducing barriers to accessing local businesses. The Chamber is committed to fostering economic growth and believes this project will play a pivotal role in strengthening Matthews as a vibrant and thriving destination for businesses and their patrons.

The transformation of John Street balances operational needs of this critical thoroughfare with much needed safety and mobility improvements. Building this project will realize efforts since 2018 to implement the Town's strategic vision and create a modern, well-balanced transportation system that provides a strong framework for future economic development and investment. We strongly encourage you to favorably consider the John Street project for RAISE funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jessica Tullar'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Jessica' written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name 'Tullar'.

Jessica Tullar, President & CEO
Matthews Area Chamber of Commerce