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December 23, 2024

Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary of Transportation:

The Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization is pleased to express our support for the LINK NC Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant application. LINK NC is a project along a key community juncture in New Hanover County with local and regional significance, connecting Wilmington and beach communities to the south. The US 421 corridor is a major route for accessing beach tourism, employment opportunities, the Port of Wilmington, thousands of homes, and shopping and service centers.

This project was identified by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) through a series of pedestrian safety studies and conversations with residents and neighbors to create a safer roadway environment along Carolina Beach Road (US 421). RAISE grant funding will address safety for a corridor with a history of pedestrian and bicyclist crashes by installing sidewalks, a shared-use path, new pedestrian crossings, visibility enhancements, transit connections, and other safety improvements. This multi-modal project aligns closely with the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law by providing enhanced pedestrian connections, addressing safety with proven safety countermeasures, and connecting residential communities to commercial amenities. Furthermore, it will improve access to transit, jobs, and opportunities for low-income communities.

The Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization supports the LINK NC grant application and NCDOT's continued efforts to improve locally and regionally significant infrastructure and improve overall quality of life and health outcomes in our region.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this extremely important grant application.

Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

City of Wilmington • Town of Carolina Beach • Town of Kure Beach • Town of Wrightsville Beach
County of New Hanover • Town of Belville • Town of Leland • Town of Navassa • County of Brunswick
County of Pender • Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority • North Carolina Department of Transportation

Sincerely,



Mike Kozlowski
Executive Director