



CAPE FEAR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

January 10, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority (dba Wave Transit) is pleased to express its support for the LINK NC Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. 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 in order 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 multimodal 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.

Wave Transit offers low-cost and environmentally friendly transportation to the Wilmington and New Hanover County community, and the LINK NC improvements align with our goals of providing safer connections between our bus service and the pedestrian access which serves as the first and last link in any bus trip.

Wave Transit supports the LINK NC application and NCDOT's continued efforts to improve locally and regionally significant infrastructure and improve overall quality of life and health outcomes. Thank you in advance for your consideration

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark E. Hairr". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark E. Hairr
Executive Director
Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority