



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

June 9, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I'm writing to you to share my strong support for the Providing Opportunities for Workforce Development and Energy Readiness in North Carolina (powerNC) application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) 2023 Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Community Grant Program. This application is the result of a collaborative partnership between the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), STEPs4GROWTH, and the North Carolina Community College System to install new electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at eleven community colleges across North Carolina. This new infrastructure will equitably expand community-based EV charging and fill gaps in access, while also supporting high-quality workforce development programs at these schools.

The U.S. Department of Commerce has funded a four-year, \$23.7 million comprehensive clean energy workforce development project called STEPs4GROWTH to address emerging skills gaps and ensure that our workforce will be prepared to support the transition to clean energy, including having the knowledge and qualifications to install, maintain, and repair EV charging infrastructure. The powerNC project will leverage this investment to expand public access to EV charging solutions while providing students opportunities for hands-on experience and instruction.

Equity and the goals of the Justice40 initiative were major considerations in identifying schools and campuses to participate in this project. Seven of the participating schools are located in counties identified as economically distressed by the North Carolina Department of Commerce, four of the participating schools are located in areas identified as Disadvantaged Communities by the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Department of Transportation, and all the participating schools are within five miles of underserved and overburdened populations and serve communities with pockets of transportation disadvantage.

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The statewide installation of these EV chargers has been years in the making for North Carolina's community colleges. By integrating the deployment of EV charging stations with vocational training, job placement, community outreach, and transit electrification needs, powerNC will equitably expand public access to community-based charging solutions in rural, suburban, and urban areas while promoting the development of multimodal hubs on community college campuses.

Thank you for considering the powerNC grant application for CFI program funding.

With kind regards, I am

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roy Cooper". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Roy Cooper

RAC/ad/swh