



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF STATE BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT



Employment First State for Individuals with Disabilities

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

KIRSTIN WALKER
STATE BUDGET DIRECTOR

June 12, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Please accept this letter of 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.

The North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management (NC OSBM) works with stakeholders across state government to support efforts to access the hundreds of billions of dollars made available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) and Science Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). The CFI program is a top priority of this effort, as its objectives to increase access to alternative fuel infrastructure networks, to expand economic opportunities, and to grow the workforce in an equitable way align with Governor Roy Cooper's climate targets for North Carolina, documented in Executive Orders 80, 218, 246, and 271, as well as his goals to make North Carolina a healthier, better educated, and more prosperous state.

The powerNC program uniquely blends enhancing the state's resilience to climate change while simultaneously providing the skills and education necessary to prepare North Carolinians for the jobs of tomorrow. Moreover, powerNC represents a whole-of-government approach to achieving these goals, as it is the result of a collaborative partnership between the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), the North Carolina Community College System, and [STEPS4GROWTH](#), a \$23.7 million project funded by the US Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration - Good Jobs Challenge at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. In support of their collective efforts, NC OSBM has identified possible funding to fulfill the 20% non-federal match requirement of the CFI program, if needed.

Mailing address:
20320 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0320

www.osbm.state.nc.us
984-236-0600 ** FAX: 984-236-0630
An EEO/AA Employer

Office location:
116 West Jones Street
Raleigh, NC 27603

In Section 2.2(m) of [S.L. 2022-74](#), the North Carolina General Assembly established the Federal Infrastructure Match Reserve, which is intended to make funds available to state agencies to use for match requirements of the BIL. As of June 2023, there is over \$90 million unexpended in this reserve. While leveraging these funds for a match requires an appropriation from the General Assembly, the 2023-2025 budget negotiation process is currently ongoing. Encouragingly, Section 2.2.(m) of the NC Senate's proposed budget, [H.B. 259](#), provides an additional \$150 million in both years of the biennium to the Federal Infrastructure Match Reserve. Further, Section 23.2.(a) appropriates \$5 million to NC OSBM for BIL, IRA, and CHIPS match needs at state agencies. NCDOT's powerNC application for the CFI Community Grant Program would likely be a strong candidate for match funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristin Walker".

Kristin Walker, State Budget Director
North Carolina Office of State Budget & Management