



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

J. ERIC BOYETTE
SECRETARY

May 12, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Please accept this letter of support for the **Mobility for Everyone, Everywhere in North Carolina (MEE NC)** grant application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program (RURAL). MEE NC advances the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT)'s vision and strategy – led by the Integrated Mobility Division (IMD) – to partner with the state's rural transit systems to launch on-demand microtransit throughout the state. The project name highlights the importance of solving transportation problems at the individual level, recognizing that many individuals in North Carolina have mobility challenges that warrant innovative solutions like on-demand microtransit. Expanding on-demand mobility options will respond to individual unmet transit needs, provide a more equitable transportation system, and improve access to opportunities, services, and resources for transportation disadvantaged populations.

Microtransit is a technology-enabled transit service that uses shuttles or vans to provide pooled, on-demand transportation with dynamic routing. It provides several benefits to riders including more efficient and responsive service, reduced wait and travel times, and flexibility to address changing mobility needs. MEE NC will fund on-demand services tailored to each community's needs and vision. On-demand service zones are designed specifically to address local gaps in the transit system and were informed by the NCDOT's Equity and Transportation Disadvantage Screening Tool that identifies populations facing barriers to accessing transportation based on six quantitative indicators.

Rural transportation challenges in North Carolina are a formidable barrier to accessing critical services and opportunities, particularly for residents with lower incomes, disabilities, and without access to a vehicle. These challenges are the root cause of poorer health outcomes, reduced safety, and limited economic competitiveness and exacerbate existing geographic, racial, and economic inequities. By addressing rural public transportation, MEE NC will tangibly and meaningfully improve the lives and economies of North Carolinians by increasing rural populations' access to employment opportunities, healthcare, and other essential services.

Mailing Address:
NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
1501 MAIL SERVICE CENTER
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA 27699-1501

Telephone: 919-707-2800
Fax: 919-733-9150
Customer Service: 1-877-368-4968

Website: ncdot.gov

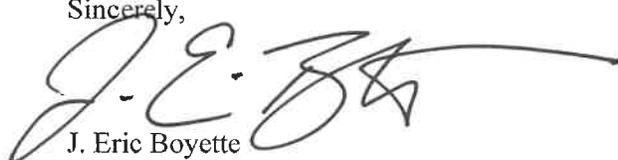
Location:
1 SOUTH WILMINGTON STREET
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA 27601

The Project will modernize transit service in rural areas across the state by introducing Software as a Service (SaaS) and Transportation as a Service (TaaS) microtransit service models to serve transportation disadvantaged populations more effectively and enable vulnerable users across the state to access critical services and opportunities. MEE NC will leverage the experience and insights from existing microtransit services in the state such as Wilson RIDE, which has seen a 150% increase in transit ridership since replacing its fixed-route system in September 2020. Building upon these successes, MEE NC will significantly reduce wait times, improve travel time reliability, and expand transit service.

The modernization of public transportation in North Carolina is vital to creating vibrant and inclusive communities by connecting people to places and addressing the transportation needs of vulnerable users. MEE NC fulfills this vision to more equitably provide transit to underserved and rural populations.

Thank you for considering the MEE NC grant application for RURAL program funding.

Sincerely,



J. Eric Boyette
Secretary



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 19, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express support for the **Mobility for Everyone, Everywhere in North Carolina (MEE NC)** grant application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program (RURAL). MEE NC would advance North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT)'s vision to partner with the state's rural transit systems to launch on-demand microtransit throughout the state.

Microtransit is an important technology-enabled transit service that uses shuttles or vans to provide pooled, on-demand transportation. The state's current rural transportation challenges prevent many residents with lower incomes, disabilities, and without access to a vehicle from accessing critical services and opportunities. These challenges are the root cause of poorer health outcomes, reduced safety, and limited economic competitiveness and exacerbate existing geographic, racial, and economic inequities. Microtransit programs provide a unique benefit to rural areas like those in my district.

The MEE NC grant would expand on-demand microtransit mobility options and address the unmet transit needs, provide a more equitable transportation system, and improve access to opportunities, services, and resources to underserved and disadvantaged populations. The modernization of public transportation in North Carolina is vital to creating vibrant and inclusive communities by connecting people to places and addressing the transportation needs of vulnerable users. MEE NC fulfills this vision to more equitably provide transit to underserved and rural populations.

Thank you for considering the MEE NC grant application for RURAL program funding.

Very truly yours,

G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

BUTTERFIELD.HOUSE.GOV



NORTH CAROLINA™
NCPTA
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION

May 17, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Thank you for supporting our ongoing statewide efforts in North Carolina to enhance the quality of life for our neighbors.

As Executive Director of our statewide public transit Association, I am pleased to lend my support for the Mobility for Everyone, Everywhere in North Carolina (MEE NC) grant application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program (RURAL).

Rural transportation challenges in North Carolina are a formidable barrier to accessing critical services and opportunities, particularly for residents with lower incomes, disabilities, and without access to a vehicle. Three quarters of our Association's 92 system members operate in this space every day.

As you know, transportation is a social determinant of health and a root cause for poorer health outcomes, and the lack of reliable transportation can further exacerbate the existing geographic, racial, and economic inequities.

By addressing rural public transportation, MEE NC will tangibly and meaningfully improve the lives and economies of North Carolinians by increasing rural populations' access to employment opportunities, healthcare, and other essential services through launching an on-demand micro transit option throughout the state. Expanding on-demand mobility options will respond to unmet transit needs, provide a more equitable transportation system, and improve access to opportunities, services, and resources for transportation disadvantaged populations.

Thank you for considering the MEE NC grant application for RURAL program funding.

Sincerely,

David

David Rhew
Executive Director, NCPTA



May 20, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Letter of Support for MEE NC grant application for RURAL

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Please accept this letter of support for the **Mobility for Everyone, Everywhere in North Carolina's (MEE NC)** grant application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program (RURAL). MEE NC advances the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Integrated Mobility Division's (IMD) vision and strategy to partner with the state's rural transit systems to launch on-demand microtransit throughout the state. Expanding on-demand mobility options will respond to unmet transit needs, provide a more equitable transportation system, and improve access to opportunities, services, and resources for transportation disadvantaged populations.

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The Project will modernize transit service in rural areas across the state by introducing Software as a Service (SaaS) and Transportation as a Service (TaaS) microtransit service models to serve transportation disadvantaged populations more effectively and enable vulnerable users across the state to access critical services and opportunities. MEE NC will leverage the experience and insights from existing microtransit services in the state such as Wilson RIDE, which has seen a 150% increase in transit ridership since replacing its fixed-route system in September 2020. Building upon these successes, MEE NC will significantly reduce wait times, improve travel time reliability, and expand transit service.

As the state's leading rural economic development organization, the NC Rural Center can attest to the profound impact that lack of transportation has on our state's rural people, places, and economies. Rural transportation challenges in North Carolina are a formidable barrier to accessing critical services and opportunities, particularly for residents with lower incomes, disabilities, and without access to a vehicle. These challenges are the root cause of poorer health outcomes, reduced safety, and limited economic competitiveness and exacerbate existing geographic, racial, and economic inequities. By addressing rural public transportation, MEE NC will tangibly and meaningfully improve the lives and economies of North Carolinians by increasing rural populations' access to employment opportunities, healthcare, and other essential services.

The modernization of public transportation in North Carolina is vital to creating vibrant and inclusive communities by connecting people to places and addressing the transportation needs of vulnerable users. MEE NC fulfills this vision to more equitably provide transit to underserved and rural populations.

I applaud MEE NC's dedication to serving rural North Carolina and ask you to give their application your strongest consideration.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick N. Woodie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P'.

Patrick Woodie

President, NC Rural Center

Nelle Hotchkiss | 919.250.4314

Chair | ncruralcenter.org

Patrick N. Woodie | 4021 Carya Drive
President | Raleigh, NC 27610



CITY OF WILSON
North Carolina
INCORPORATED 1849

Office of the Mayor

May 18, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Please accept this letter of support for the **Mobility for Everyone, Everywhere in North Carolina (MEE NC)** grant application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program (RURAL). MEE NC advances the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Integrated Mobility Division (IMD)'s vision and strategy to partner with the state's rural transit systems to launch on-demand microtransit throughout the state. Expanding on-demand mobility options will respond to unmet transit needs, provide a more equitable transportation system, and improve access to opportunities, services, and resources for transportation disadvantaged populations.

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Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority

P.O. Box 12630 • Wilmington, NC 28405 • (910) 343-0106 • (910) 343-8317 fax • wavetransit.com

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Please accept this letter of support for the **Mobility for Everyone, Everywhere in North Carolina (MEE NC)** grant application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program (RURAL). MEE NC advances the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Integrated Mobility Division (IMD)'s vision and strategy to partner with the state's rural transit systems to launch on-demand microtransit throughout the state. Expanding on-demand mobility options will respond to unmet transit needs, provide a more equitable transportation system, and improve access to opportunities, services, and resources for transportation disadvantaged populations.

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This project can improve the transit options in the Wilmington Metro area by expanding our coverage area. This will better serve our communities and provide affordable, convenient public transportation. Many of the areas that would be supported are identified within Transportation Disadvantaged Census Tracts. If awarded, this funding would directly support many of those disadvantaged communities and provide public transit where none currently exists. This transportation would promote economic mobility by providing access to education and jobs. This will have a substantial impact on the quality of life and social well-being of our residents.



Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority

P.O. Box 2258. • Wilmington, NC 28402 • (910) 343-0106 • (910) 343-8317 fax • wavetransit.com

The modernization of public transportation in North Carolina is vital to creating vibrant and inclusive communities by connecting people to places and addressing the transportation needs of vulnerable users. MEE NC fulfills this vision to more equitably provide transit to underserved and rural populations.

Thank you for considering the MEE NC grant application for RURAL program funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marie Parker".

Executive Director
Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority
Wilmington, North Carolina

Aging, Disability & Transit Services



The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

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P.O. Box 1915 - 105 Lawsonville Avenue - Reidsville, NC 27323 - 336.349.2343 - 336.342.6714 fax - www.adtsrc.org

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(919) 777-1103
P.O. Box 3729
Sanford, NC 27331-3729



Residence: (919) 774-7494
Email: chet.mann@sanfordnc.net

City of Sanford

T. Chet Mann
Mayor

May 19, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

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The City of Sanford has been working diligently over the past several months to study the feasibility of microtransit in our community. We have conducted public surveys and held interviews with potential partners such as Central Carolina Community College, the Sanford Area Growth Alliance, Downtown Sanford Main Street organization, and the Sanford Tourism Authority. This outreach has led us to believe that there is indeed a huge interest for on-demand transit that would greatly benefit students getting to class, employees getting to work, the elderly and impaired making it to medical appointments, and everyday residents and tourists taking advantage of the opportunity to shop for goods and services.

The modernization of public transportation in North Carolina is vital to creating vibrant and inclusive communities by connecting people to places and addressing the transportation needs of vulnerable users. MEE NC fulfills this vision to more equitably provide transit to underserved and rural populations.

Thank you for considering the MEE NC grant application for RURAL program funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Chet Mann". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

T. Chet Mann
Mayor

www.jcats.org

1050 West Noble Street, Selma, NC 27576



(919) 202-5030 office

(919) 202-5032 fax

A Division of Community & Senior Services of Johnston County, Inc.

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Please accept this letter of support for the **Mobility for Everyone, Everywhere in North Carolina (MEE NC)** grant application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program (RURAL). MEE NC advances the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Integrated Mobility Division (IMD)'s vision and strategy to partner with the state's rural transit systems to launch on-demand microtransit throughout the state. Expanding on-demand mobility options will respond to unmet transit needs, provide a more equitable transportation system, and improve access to opportunities, services, and resources for transportation disadvantaged populations.

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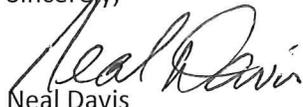
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Johnston County is one of the fastest growing counties in North Carolina. As we grow, our citizens need expanded transportation options. Our analysis reveals that microtransit provides the best model to increase our service. In particular, riders in the Smithfield-Selma zone will have much better access to the government center, county hospital, community college and other destinations. Lack of car ownership and multiple points of interest leaves a gap in convenience and mobility for individuals. We project the demand can easily surpass 200 ride per day.

The modernization of public transportation in North Carolina is vital to creating vibrant and inclusive communities by connecting people to places and addressing the transportation needs of vulnerable users. MEE NC fulfills this vision to more equitably provide transit to underserved and rural populations.

Thank you for considering the MEE NC grant application for RURAL program funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neal Davis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Neal" being more prominent than the last name "Davis".

Neal Davis

Executive Director

KARTS

POST OFFICE BOX 246
HENDERSON, NORTH CAROLINA 27536

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
TELEPHONE: 252/438-2573

May 19, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

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Kerr Area Transportation Authority operates public transportation services in four (4) rural counties. Providing access to transportation contributes to the economic development, health, and quality of life of rural communities. Reliable transportation is needed for rural residents to access healthcare services, consumer services, employment and educational opportunities, and social services. It is also important for

accessing recreation and other activities of daily life. Improving the ability to schedule and provide trips efficiently is critical to maintain needed services to our local communities.

The modernization of public transportation in North Carolina is vital to creating vibrant and inclusive communities by connecting people to places and addressing the transportation needs of vulnerable users. MEE NC fulfills this vision to more equitably provide transit to underserved and rural populations. Thank you for considering the MEE NC grant application for RURAL program funding.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Irene Johnson

1EFECD196B67495...

Irene Johnson, Director

Kerr Area Transportation Authority



The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

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McDowell County Public Transportation is a new agency, having only been established in 2018. We are faced with many challenges, including vehicle and driver shortages. We are not always able to provide the transportation access that we would like to provide. We are very excited about the technology that exists to modernize rural transportation.

The modernization of public transportation in North Carolina is vital to creating vibrant and inclusive communities by connecting people to places and addressing the transportation needs of vulnerable users. MEE NC fulfills this vision to more equitably provide transit to underserved and rural populations.

Thank you for considering the MEE NC grant application for RURAL program funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Adkins".

300 Rockwell Drive
Marion, NC 28752

828-559-0744



The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

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Rural transportation challenges in North Carolina are a formidable barrier to accessing critical services and opportunities, particularly for residents with lower incomes, disabilities, and without access to a vehicle. These challenges are the root cause of poorer health outcomes, reduced safety, and limited economic competitiveness and exacerbate existing geographic, racial, and economic inequities. By addressing rural public transportation, MEE NC will tangibly and meaningfully improve the lives and economies of North Carolinians by increasing rural populations' access to employment opportunities, healthcare, and other essential services.

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The MEE NC project will provide an opportunity to provide additional service to the far-reaching areas within Randolph and Montgomery counties that we currently service on a limited basis. The project will also give us the opportunity to expand service by potentially providing transportation to the NC Zoo; Downtown Asheboro and to other transportation disadvantaged populations.

The modernization of public transportation in North Carolina is vital to creating vibrant and inclusive communities by connecting people to places and addressing the transportation needs of vulnerable users. MEE NC fulfills this vision to more equitably provide transit to underserved and rural populations.

Thank you for considering the MEE NC grant application for RURAL program funding.

Sincerely,

Tawanna M. Williams

Tawanna M. Williams
Transportation Director



City of Salisbury
North Carolina

*Office of the
Mayor*

May 19, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Delegation of Certifying Officer

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Please accept this letter of support for the **Mobility for Everyone, Everywhere in North Carolina (MEE NC)** grant application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program (RURAL). MEE NC advances the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Integrated Mobility Division (IMD)'s vision and strategy to partner with the state's rural transit systems to launch on-demand microtransit throughout the state. Expanding on-demand mobility options will respond to unmet transit needs, provide a more equitable transportation system, and improve access to opportunities, services, and resources for transportation disadvantaged populations.

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- Offer safe & affordable transportation in service gaps on the West side of the City to include major employment destinations along Highway 70 / Statesville Blvd.
- Reduce travel time
- Prepare for future employment and residential growth in rural areas outside of current service area
- Serve transit markets difficult to reach with traditional fixed-route service
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Thank you for considering the MEE NC grant application for RURAL program funding.

Sincerely,



Karen K. Alexander
Mayor



100 Coastline Street, Suite 315 • P.O. Box 1180 • Rocky Mount, NC 27802-1180 • Phone (252) 972-1174 • Fax (252) 972-1576

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary, Buttigieg:

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Tar River Transit provides both Small Urban fixed route service as well as Rural Para-Transit service in Rocky Mount, NC and Nash and Edgecombe counties. Tar River Transit currently has 10 fixed routes operating within the city limits of Rocky Mount. The benefits of the microtransit service model here in Rocky Mount would be:

- *Potential expansion of service area and reduction of wait times for transportation service*
- *The On-Demand booking, and route management tools associated with microtransit SaaS would better serve the needs of the passenger by making scheduling more convenient and reducing ride times aboard TRT vehicles*
- *Potential to provide a more responsive service at a lower operating cost due to more efficient use of fuel and vehicles*

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Thank you for considering the MEE NC grant application for RURAL program funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TG', written over a horizontal line.

Todd Gardner

Transit System Manger

City of Rocky Mount/Tar River Transit



Alamance County
Transportation Authority

Mail:
ACTA
P.O. Box 2746
Burlington, NC 27216

Location:
ACTA
128 Electric Ave.
Burlington, NC 27216

P: 336-222-0565
F: 336-222-6029
E: exec@acta-nc.com
W: www.acta-nc.com

Peter Murphy
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jon Mitchell
OPERATIONS MANAGER

Terri Powers-Hebert
ACCOUNTANT / HR MANAGER

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

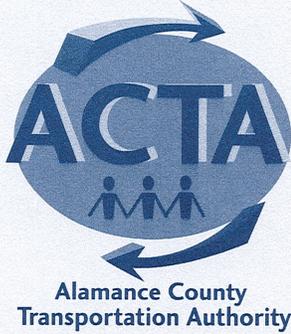
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P.O. Box 2746
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Location:
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E: exec@acta-nc.com
W: www.acta-nc.com

Peter Murphy
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jon Mitchell
OPERATIONS MANAGER

Terri Powers-Hebert
ACCOUNTANT / HR MANAGER

successes, MEE NC will significantly reduce wait times, improve travel time reliability, and expand transit service.

Alamance County Transportation Authority (ACTA) is observing changes in ridership patterns following the recent pandemic. Rider demand is increasing in rural areas as opportunities have shifted to new locations. Microtransit funding through MEE NC will assist ACTA in providing the necessary resources to meet its growing demand. ACTA looks forward to the use of advance technologies to better inform our riders of available options, reduced wait times, and predictable services to meet the ever-changing transportation needs.

The modernization of public transportation in North Carolina is vital to creating vibrant and inclusive communities by connecting people to places and addressing the transportation needs of vulnerable users. MEE NC fulfills this vision to more equitably provide transit to underserved and rural populations.

Thank you for considering the MEE NC grant application for RURAL program funding.

Sincerely,

Peter Murphy
Executive Director - ACTA
(336) 222-0565



NC Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

May 24, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Please accept this letter of support for the **Mobility for Everyone, Everywhere in North Carolina (MEE NC)** grant application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program (RURAL). MEE NC advances the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Integrated Mobility Division (IMD)'s vision and strategy to partner with the state's rural transit systems to launch on-demand microtransit throughout the state. Expanding on-demand mobility options will respond to unmet transit needs, provide a more equitable transportation system, and improve access to opportunities, services, and resources for transportation disadvantaged populations.

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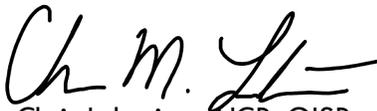
The Capital Area MPO is the largest metropolitan planning organization in North Carolina and includes some of the most urban areas in North Carolina as well as many rural areas. Improving public transportation beyond traditional human services demand response is critical to serving the

needs of rural areas. This project will partner with existing and planned fixed route and fixed guideway connections from the rural areas to the urban core of our region, providing a critical link that can improve mobility and safety for many of our transportation system's most vulnerable users.

The modernization of public transportation in North Carolina is vital to creating vibrant and inclusive communities by connecting people to places and addressing the transportation needs of vulnerable users. MEE NC fulfills this vision to provide transit more equitably to underserved and rural populations.

Thank you for considering the MEE NC grant application for RURAL program funding.

Sincerely,



Chris Lukasina, AICP, GISP
Executive Director
NC Capital Area MPO

**WILMINGTON URBAN AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
BOARD**

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE MOBILITY FOR EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE IN NORTH CAROLINA (MEE NC) GRANT APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S RURAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION GRANT PROGRAM (RURAL)

WHEREAS, the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization provides transportation planning services for the City of Wilmington, Town of Carolina Beach, Town of Kure Beach, Town of Wrightsville Beach, Town of Belville, Town of Leland, Town of Navassa, New Hanover County, Brunswick County, Pender County, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority, and the North Carolina Board of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, the Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program (RURAL) will support projects to improve and expand the surface transportation infrastructure in rural areas to increase connectivity, improve the safety and reliability of the movement of people and freight, and generate regional economic growth and improve quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation has developed the Mobility for Everyone, Everywhere (MEE NC) in North Carolina grant application for these RURAL funds; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation's Integrated Mobility Division's vision and strategy is to partner with the state's rural transit systems to launch on-demand micro-transit throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, micro-transit is a technology-enabled transit system that uses shuttles or vans to provide pooled, on-demand transportation with dynamic routing; and

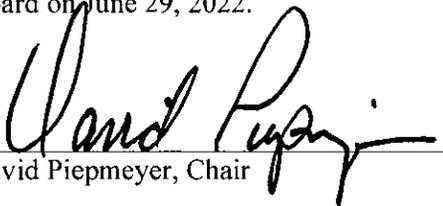
WHEREAS, this service provides several benefits to riders including more efficient and responsive service, reduced wait and travel times, and flexibility to address changing mobility needs; and

WHEREAS, rural transportation challenges in North Carolina are a formidable barrier to accessing critical services and opportunities, particularly for residents in lower incomes, disabilities, and without access to a vehicle; and

WHEREAS, by addressing public transportation, MEE NC will fund on-demand services tailored to each community's needs and vision and will tangibly and meaningfully improve the lives and economies of North Carolinians by increasing rural populations' access to employment opportunities, healthcare, and essential services.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization hereby supports the North Carolina Department of Transportation's Mobility for Everyone, Everywhere in North Carolina (MEE NC) grant application to the United States Department of Transportation's rural Surface Transportation Grant Program.

ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's Board on June 29, 2022.



David Piepmeyer, Chair



Mike Kozlosky, Secretary

The modernization of public transportation in North Carolina is vital to creating vibrant and inclusive regions by connecting people to places and addressing the transportation needs of vulnerable users. MEE NC fulfills this vision to provide transit more equitably to underserved and rural populations. On behalf of the BGMPO thank you for considering ACTA's MEE NC grant application for RURAL program funding.

Sincerely,



Leonard Williams
BGMPO TAC Chair



CABARRUS COUNTY ◊ CHINA GROVE ◊ CLEVELAND ◊ CONCORD ◊ GRANITE QUARRY ◊ HARRISBURG ◊ KANNAPOLIS ◊ LANDIS
MIDLAND ◊ MOUNT PLEASANT ◊ ROCKWELL ◊ EAST SPENCER ◊ ROWAN COUNTY ◊ SALISBURY ◊ SPENCER ◊ FAITH

May 25, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

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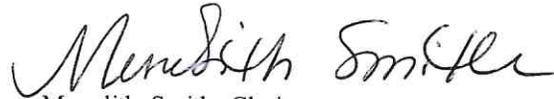
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Thank you for considering the MEE NC grant application for RURAL program funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Meredith Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Meredith Smith, Chair
Cabarrus-Rowan TAC

cc: Mr. Ryan Dayvault, City of Kannapolis
Mayor Karen Alexander, City of Salisbury
Mr. Alex Rotenberry, NCDOT - IMD



PIEDMONT TRIAD
RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

May 19, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

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Thank you for considering the MEE NC grant application for RURAL program funding.

Sincerely,

Kelly Larkins, Director
Piedmont Triad Rural Planning Organization



111 West Court Street | P. O. Box 841
Rutherfordton, North Carolina 28139-0841

www.FoothillsRegion.org

Laura Lynch
Interim Director

Fred Baisden
Chairman

Executive
Committee:
Max Hopper
Bryan King Dean
Buff
Jimmy Dancy

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

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Foothills Regional Commission strongly support this program to bring Transportation as a Service (Taas) to rural areas. McDowell County has significant challenges in providing transit to its citizens, from topography to funding limitations. In addition, it is a relatively new transit service provider in North Carolina. So it has been unable to access funding for either additional vehicles or computer software that would allow it to meet its current demand effectively and efficiently. This program would provide additional support and demonstrate a model that may provide flexibility and better service to McDowell County and other rural transit services, including the three different providers in the Foothills region.

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Thank you for considering the MEE NC grant application for RURAL program funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized first letter followed by a series of connected loops and a horizontal tail.

Interim Deputy Executive Director



Triangle Area Rural Planning Organization
A program of Triangle J Council of Governments

4307 Emperor Boulevard, Suite 110, Durham, NC 27703
(919) 549-0551 www.tarpo.org

May 20, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

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upon these successes, MEE NC will significantly reduce wait times, improve travel time reliability, and expand transit service.

The Triangle Area Rural Planning Organization (TARPO) provides transportation planning services in a four-county rural region serving over 200,000 residents on the edges of the North Carolina Research Triangle region. TARPO's largest member municipality, the City of Sanford, is a growing city of over 30,000 residents but is currently only served by limited demand-response transit services. Inclusion of the City of Sanford in the proposed future microtransit service would dramatically increase the mobility options available to the residents and workers in this area. As the Sanford community and the whole Triangle region continue to rapidly grow, this need for mobility options will only become more and more critical to address.

The TARPO Rural Transportation Advisory Committee will consider adoption of a resolution of support for this effort at its upcoming June 9, 2022 meeting. If passed, the resolution will be posted on the TARPO website at <https://www.tarpo.org/resources/meeting-materials/resolutions/>. If, for some reason, the committee chooses not to support the resolution we will notify you at that time.

The modernization of public transportation in North Carolina is vital to creating vibrant and inclusive communities by connecting people to places and addressing the transportation needs of vulnerable users. MEE NC fulfills this vision to more equitably provide transit to underserved and rural populations.

Thank you for considering the MEE NC grant application for RURAL program funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew M. Day". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'M' and 'D'.

Matthew M. Day
Director of Transportation
Triangle Area Rural Planning Organization
Triangle J Council of Governments

UPPER COASTAL PLAIN
RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

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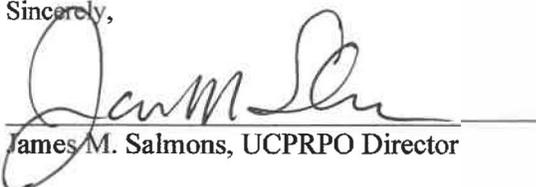
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This project is critical to Upper Coastal Plain Rural Planning Organization to help provide equitable access to transportation within our rural and small-urban communities. One of our member jurisdictions, the City of Wilson has won multiple national awards with their pilot RIDE microtransit service which replaced the City's fixed route bus and on-demand transit system. The new service has become extremely popular with the public and has provided greater service reliability, reduced wait times, improved overall rider experience and increased access to opportunities and services to residents. Making additional funding available to our regional transportation service providers will help ensure that first and last mile infrastructure is available to more citizens within our region.

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Thank you for considering the MEE NC grant application for RURAL program funding.

Sincerely,



James M. Salmons, UCPRPO Director

**Serving Local
Government in:**

**Brunswick
County**

Bald Head Island
Belville
Boiling Spring Lakes
Bolivia
Calabash
Carolina Shores
Caswell Beach
Holden Beach
Leland
Navassa
Northwest
Oak Island
Ocean Isle Beach
Sandy Creek
Shalotte
Southport
St. James
Sunset Beach

**Columbus
County**

Bolton
Brunswick
Cerro Gordo
Chadbourn
Fair Bluff
Lake Waccamaw
Sandyfield
Tabor City
Whiteville

**New Hanover
County**

Carolina Beach
Kure Beach
Wilmington
Wrightsville Beach

**Pender
County**

Atkinson
Burgaw
Surf City
Topsail Beach
Wallace

PROGRESS
THROUGH
COOPERATION

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

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As a regional governmental organization in an area with significant portions of the population in non-urban areas where traditional transit is neither available nor practical, we strongly support NCDOT's MEE NC program that will expand mobility for a great number of our citizens who currently face major transportation challenges.

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Thank you for considering the MEE NC grant application for RURAL program funding.

Sincerely,



Allen Serkin
Executive Director



PIEDMONT TRIAD REGIONAL
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

1398 Carrollton Crossing Drive - Kernersville, NC 27284 (336) 904.0300

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Piedmont Triad Region Regional Workforce Development Board. Please accept this letter of support for the **Mobility for Everyone, Everywhere in North Carolina (MEE NC)** grant application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program (RURAL). MEE NC advances the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Integrated Mobility Division (IMD)'s vision and strategy to partner with the state's rural transit systems to launch on-demand microtransit throughout the state. Expanding on-demand mobility options will respond to unmet transit needs, provide a more equitable transportation system, and improve access to opportunities, services, and resources for transportation disadvantaged populations.

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With the help of a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission, Piedmont Triad Regional Council conducted research to identify barriers preventing workforce engagement in our region. This research revealed that lack of reliable transportation was the number one barrier to employment and workforce training opportunities. We then applied for and received a grant from the Golden Leaf Foundation, the Golden Leaf Opportunities to Work Grant to research and implement a pilot program for rural counties in our region. We contracted WSP, Inc. to conduct the research. It was completed just this week and indicates that in Rockingham County, microtransit appears to have a high possibility for successful. We are happy to partner with ADST to support transportation solutions to serve our participants in Rockingham county and are hopeful that this will serve as a model that can be replicated in other rural communities across our region and the state.

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Thank you for considering the MEE NC grant application for RURAL program funding.

Sincerely,

Wendy Walker-Fox
Executive Director

replacing its fixed-route system in September 2020. Building upon these successes, MEE NC will significantly reduce wait times, improve travel time reliability, and expand transit service.

The City of Wilson was fortunate to recently transition to an on-demand ride sharing solution to replace our fixed route system, after many years of planning. RIDE, our new public transit system, has been extremely popular in Wilson. Since the transition to RIDE from the city's fixed route bus system in September 2020, ridership has grown rapidly and has significantly impacted mobility in Wilson. RIDE completed nearly 25,000 trips from launch date through the end of 2020. RIDE's flexible, convenient service, offering trips to most places in the Wilson city limits, is steadily growing new riders and has now reached over 600 trips per day.

The average ETA is 18 minutes compared to an average of more than 60 minutes under the former bus system. Nearly 90 percent of trips are for essential activities, including commuting to and from work and to grocery stores, banks and for healthcare. The City of Wilson can show a successful model for on-demand public transit. I encourage you to consider additional funding to support RIDE, providing more support to expand the service and ensure continued success over the next several years.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carlton L. Stevens", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Carlton L. Stevens
Mayor



NEW HANOVER COUNTY

COUNTY MANAGER'S OFFICE

230 Government Center Drive, Suite 195, Wilmington, NC 28403

P: (910) 798-7184 | F: (910) 798-7277 | NHCgov.com

Chris Coudriet, County Manager | **Tim Burgess**, Deputy County Manager

Tufanna Bradley, Assistant County Manager | **Lisa Wurtzbacher**, Assistant County Manager

May 20, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

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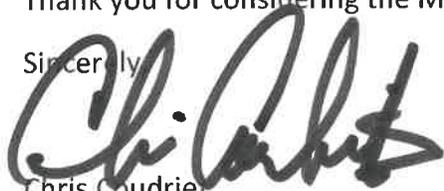
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New Hanover County is committed to providing equitable opportunities and building a sustainable future for our residents. Increased access to innovative public transportation options will benefit our area now and into the future. Our county is experiencing a large increase in population which requires investment in infrastructure critical to the changing landscape of the county. As more choose to live in the rural parts of New Hanover County, we hope to be able to provide the same access to jobs, healthcare, culture, and education as our downtown neighbors. New Hanover County supports Wave Transit in its work to ensure greater access to public transportation for residents and visitors.

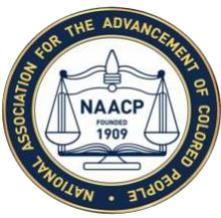
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Thank you for considering the MEE NC grant application for RURAL program funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Coudriet". The signature is stylized and cursive, written over the printed name.

Chris Coudriet
County Manager



NAACP

New Hanover County Branch

Reddgo Long, Jr., Branch President
George Vlasits, 1st Vice President
Russell Hewett, 2nd Vice President
Shay Webb, 3rd Vice President

Robin D. Lang Moore, Secretary
Natalie Hinton-Stalling, Assistant Secretary
Cynthia Pershia, Treasurer
Kathy King, Assistant Treasurer

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

May 19, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590
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Our members depend on mobile transportation and we believe that this project will be a solution to the various challenges that our members from marginalized communities are facing. We are not only happy to support this project, but also look forward to spreading the information of a major resource coming to help our area.

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Thank you for considering the MEE NC grant application for RURAL program funding.

Forward Together,



President, New Hanover County NAACP

NAACP

New Hanover County Branch

PO BOX 2199 | Wilmington, NC 28402

Email: info@nhcnaacp.org | Website: www.nhcnaacp.org



WILSON HOUSING AUTHORITY
301 E. NASH STREET
P.O. BOX 185
WILSON, NC 27894-0185

President/CEO

Kelly Vick

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

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The majority of our public housing residents do not have reliable transportation of their own. The microtransit service gives them a reliable, low cost method of transportation. This is critical to allow them to pursue educational and job opportunities in order for them to become self sufficient.

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Thank you for considering the MEE NC grant application for RURAL program funding.

Sincerely,



May 20, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

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May 20, 2022

Page 2

Secretary Buttigieg

September 2020. Building upon these successes, MEE NC will significantly reduce wait times, improve travel time reliability, and expand transit service.

In 2015 our young leaders went into multiple neighborhoods to survey the unemployed. We wanted to find out why they weren't working. The number one reason Wilsonians were unemployed was transportation. We shared the results in a communitywide meeting. The City began to look at alternatives in public transportation to give our citizens an opportunity to be productive.

In 2020 RIDE Wilson was launched. It has been a tremendous success since it started. Today 48% of the passengers are using the service to go to work. Our business and industrial community are very interested, supportive, and willing to hire our citizens using RIDE because of its reliability.

RIDE is reducing barriers for those who need it most, low income, female, African Americans. It is providing far better access to jobs, training, health care, even the grocery store. Wilson will never reduce its poverty rate and increase the standard of living for our citizens without innovative solutions like RIDE.

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Jennifer J Lantz

Executive Director



May 19, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

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Wilson Forward's mission is to improve educational opportunities, health and wellness, and workforce development in Wilson, and we approach every opportunity and challenge through a collaborative lens. We represent the combined efforts of more than 200 partners from city and county government, businesses and neighborhoods, schools and colleges, civic organizations, and churches to work together towards the greatest possible benefit for all who live and work in Wilson. We are committed to the success of this initiative, and we are always prepared to facilitate and convene partners as needed for the success of community initiatives such as RIDE.

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Thank you for considering the MEE NC grant application for RURAL program funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paula T Benson".

Paula Benson, Executive Director
Wilson Forward
252.290.0355

MEE NC will benefit so many people in Rockingham County, North Carolina, where there is a population of approximately 94,000 people spread over 575 square miles who need increased access to employment opportunities particularly during the second and third shift times. This county's industry historically included textiles and tobacco, but with the demise of those two, there has been a push by county leaders for economic development, bringing other industries to the area. MEE NC will allow citizens to not only access the local Community College for continued education and job training but also to acquire gainful employment in the new industries to support the local economy. MEE NC will also allow the aging population of the Rockingham County to remain in their homes longer by allowing on demand transit services to be realized. Although the current models of transportation provision allow for medical appointments, they often require advance reservation notices, which is often not feasible.

The modernization of public transportation in North Carolina is vital to creating vibrant and inclusive communities by connecting people to places and addressing the transportation needs of vulnerable users. MEE NC fulfills this vision to more equitably provide transit to underserved and rural populations.

Thank you for considering the MEE NC grant application for RURAL program funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Meggan R. Odell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Meggan Roberts Odell

Transportation Director

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

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Rural transportation challenges in North Carolina are a formidable barrier to accessing critical services and opportunities, particularly for residents with lower incomes, disabilities, and without access to a vehicle. These challenges are the root cause of poorer health outcomes, reduced safety, and limited economic competitiveness and exacerbate existing geographic, racial, and economic inequities. By addressing rural public transportation, MEE NC will tangibly and meaningfully improve the lives and economies of North Carolinians by increasing rural populations' access to employment opportunities, healthcare, and other essential services.

The Project will modernize transit service in rural areas across the state by introducing Software as a Service (SaaS) and Transportation as a Service (TaaS) microtransit service models to serve transportation disadvantaged populations more effectively and enable vulnerable users across the state to access critical services and opportunities. MEE NC will leverage the experience and insights from existing microtransit services in the state such as Wilson RIDE, which has seen a 150% increase in transit ridership since replacing its fixed-route system in September 2020. Building upon these successes, MEE NC will significantly reduce wait times, improve travel time reliability, and expand transit service.

As the primary economic development organization serving Sanford and Lee County, NC, the Sanford Area Growth Alliance believes the success of existing microtransit services like Wilson RIDE are a strong indicator of the role MEE NC can play in developing our community's mobility solutions for the future. Like Wilson, Sanford is a regional commercial and industrial hub, and serves as a center of employment, commerce and vital human services for thousands of North Carolinians who reside in the surrounding rural areas. Sanford's well-centered location and considerable economic and community development assets provide access to well-paid manufacturing jobs and



SANFORD

AREA GROWTH ALLIANCE

Economic Development • Chamber of Commerce

Well Centered.

quality food, healthcare and recreational resources. We are eager to work with partners in other rural areas around the state to better enable access to these vital assets for our most vulnerable and disadvantaged residents.

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Thank you for considering the MEE NC grant application for RURAL program funding.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Randolph

CEO

Office of the President

Lisa M. Chapman, Ed.D. | lchapman@cccc.edu | (919) 718-7246



The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

May 18, 2022

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Our region is currently experiencing tremendous economic development. Economic mobility is essential to Central Carolina Community College's efforts to support the needed talent pipeline to sustain this regional growth and we know one of the barriers to underserved individuals successfully accessing targeted postsecondary education and training is lack of or limited transportation. On-demand, affordable transportation will help transform our rural communities. Our employee/employer base will more fully represent the diversity of our communities resulting in the best possible use of our local talent and human capital.

The modernization of public transportation in North Carolina is vital to creating vibrant and inclusive communities by connecting people to places and addressing the transportation needs of vulnerable users. MEE NC fulfills this vision to more equitably provide transit to underserved and rural populations. Thank you for considering the MEE NC grant application for RURAL program funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa M. Chapman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lisa M. Chapman, Ed.D.



The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

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The proposed project will benefit residents and visitors alike. The Sanford Tourism Development Authority has witnessed a competitive disadvantage as we have no service for visitors from the Raleigh Durham International Airport to our hotels or other destinations. We also are not able to offer transportation as part of conventions and meetings packages, creating another competitive disparity. However, the greatest impact to adding a microtransit system would be the access to our largest visitor destination, Downtown Sanford. The closest hotel to Downtown Sanford is 2 miles away, which underutilizes our largest walkable visitor area.

Additionally, as the population in the State of North Carolina continues to grow, increased travel along both the US421 and US1 corridors is inevitable, and having the proper assets in place to support such travels will enhance employment, income, and overall economic viability of Sanford, Lee County, the Triangle J region, and additional neighboring counties. Additional tourism sectors that would benefit from a microtransit system in our community are outdoor recreation and outdoor sports, since these locations are in more remote areas of the county.

919.718.4659
Ext. 1401

106 Charlotte Avenue
Sanford, NC 27330

info@visitsanfordnc.com
www.visitsanfordnc.com

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Thank you for considering the MEE NC grant application for RURAL program funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wendy W. Bryan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Wendy W. Bryan
Sanford TDA Executive Director



May 18, 2022

**Executive
Committee**

Jerry Hurwitz
Chair

Kathy Denlinger
Vice Chair

Cindy Kuhne
Treasurer

Stephanie Holt
Secretary

Tiffany Graham
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James H. Faison, III
Alex Hargrove
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Jeff Partl
Nicholas Suggs
Matt Thompson
Laurie Whalin

Executive Director

Katrina Knight, MSW

*Please remember
Good Shepherd
Center
in your will and
estate plans.*

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
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Washington, DC 20590

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As the largest provider of homeless services in the Cape Fear region, our organization faces significant challenges overcoming the transportation barriers of those we serve – families with children, seniors, Veterans, persons with disabilities – who have difficulty accessing supportive services because of the lack of transit options. Traditional transit options like large buses, when available, are difficult to navigate for these more vulnerable populations; every day we see how transit barriers are increasing isolation, exacerbating health concerns, and preventing access to needed services.

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Thank you for considering the MEE NC grant application for RURAL program funding.

Sincerely,

Katrina Knight, MSW
Executive Director

811 Martin Street • Wilmington, NC 28401 • (p) 910-763-4424 • (f) 910-763-7394
Our tax ID is 56-1566178.

Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available
from the Charitable Solicitation Licensing Section at 888.830.4989
www.goodshepherdwilmington.org



The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

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20 North 4th Street, Suite 212, Wilmington, NC 28443
Phone: 910-408-5858
www.nhcbouncesback.org



As Director of the New Hanover Resiliency Task Force, I am writing in support of this application for funds to expand transit options in North Carolina. Our local transit authority works closely with our task force to support our mission to increase community resilience by raising awareness of the impact of adverse childhood experiences and trauma, respond to trauma with empathy and compassion, and provide meaningful connections in our community. Through education and advocacy, we strive to remove barriers to equity and access and make a positive impact on the social determinants of health. Our county is not immune to the significant barriers to services and opportunities created by a lack of available transportation services, so we look forward to the impact these funds will have on the resilience of our residents.

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Thank you for considering the MEE NC grant application for RURAL program funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tina L. C. Pearson".

Tina L. C. Pearson
Director



WWW.NORTHSIDEFOODCOOP.COM

TO:

**The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of
Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590**

DATE:

17 May 2022

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As a community-owned cooperative business, our focus is to holistically address food insecurity in our neighborhood. The Northside of Wilmington, NC has been without a grocery store for over three decades, meaning that our neighbors live within a food desert; traveling further than a mile to get to the nearest grocery store. Access to reliable and efficient transportation is a key social determinant of health that directly impacts our neighbors. After conducting a series of focus groups about our grocery development, community members consistently cited transportation as a barrier and public transportation specifically as an area that needed to be improved. The Microtransit system would begin to directly address their concerns.

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Thank you for considering the MEE NC grant application for RURAL program funding.

Sincerely

Cierra Washington

Project Manager



Phone.

910-523-6628



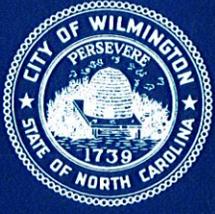
Email.

northsidefoodcoop@gmail.com



Address.

1019 Princess St, Wilmington NC 28401



Mayor and City Council

Mayor
Bill Saffo

Mayor Pro-Tem
Margaret E. Haynes

Council Members
Neil Anderson
Clifford D. Barnett, Sr.
Charlie Rivenbark
Kevin Spears
Luke Waddell

City of Wilmington
City Hall
102 North Third Street
PO Box 1810
Wilmington, NC 28402-1810
910.341.7815
910.341.4628 fax
wilmingtonnc.gov
Dial 711 TTY/ Voice



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U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

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Microtransit is the key to our success as a city and as a stand-alone transit authority. As a small fast-growing county, our workforce must find affordable housing in the areas beyond our fixed route system. Not only does this housing pattern result in more traffic congestion in our city, but more importantly it provides challenges in marrying the workforce with the available jobs. The best way to address this issue is to help those folks get to the jobs is via microtransit into the fixed route system. Without this valuable tool, we would be leaving our workforce stranded in the outlying areas with no way to get to a very desirable job market.

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Thank you for considering the MEE NC grant application for RURAL program funding.

Sincerely,

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Bill Saffo

Mayor