



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

April 6, 2022

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my support for the **North Carolina Regional S-Line Mobility Hub Plan** application for the Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program for fiscal year 2022. This grant is being submitted by the Town of Wake Forest in partnership with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and other communities along the S-Line corridor.

The North Carolina Regional S-Line Mobility Hub Plan ("Mobility Hub Plan") will serve to advance regional multimodal transportation along the S-Line Rail Corridor in central North Carolina – enhancing mobility options, improving social equity, increasing the resilience of the transportation network, and spurring economic growth. The S-Line corridor is a key component in making the Southeast Corridor a reality. The Southeast Corridor is a planned network of passenger and freight rail lines that would run between Florida and Washington. The intent of the overall S-Line project is to have passenger rail stops that accommodate multiple modes of transportation at mobility hubs along the corridor.

Each mobility hub will be a place of accessible, multimodal connectivity, offering an integrated suite of mobility services, amenities, and supporting technologies, allowing passengers to transfer modes in a safe and convenient manner. The Mobility Hub Plan will focus on defining the scope and physical location of each mobility hub, evaluating potential environmental impacts, and completing preliminary design activities. These mobility hubs will address issues of social equity in communities by expanding access to jobs, healthy food, recreation, and social services. By planning and designing future S-Line rail stations as mobility hubs, each community will be prepared to maximize the benefits of the rail service by optimizing first and last mile solutions.

Knowing the historical importance of the old CSX corridor through the Town of Norlina we are excited to be a part of the support of this plan. Norlina was settled and incorporated around the Rail in the early 1900's. We also feel confident this study will show that Norlina's location is ideal for a future mobility hub. With the neighboring City of Henderson only 14 miles away with a population of 14,725, the neighboring City of Roanoke Rapids only 33 miles away with a population of 13,798 and the neighboring Town of South Hill only 23 miles away with a population of 4343 this proposed rail line with a mobility hub would allow for feasible mobility services.

The S-Line corridor is both historically significant and important to the future of central North Carolina. The partnerships between the communities along the S-Line and regional and state agencies will further the economic strength of the region, leading to new economic opportunities in communities that were quite literally built on the success of rail. The Mobility Hub Plan will be an incredibly important factor in the connectivity, innovation, growth, and overall vibrancy of our communities.

I respectfully urge your full and fair consideration of the *North Carolina Regional S-Line Mobility Hub Plan* grant application.

Sincerely,

Blaine Reese

Director of Operations

RESOLUTION 22-19

APPROVAL OF A GRANT APPLICATION FOR A UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (USDOT) REBUILDING AMERICA INFRASTRUCTURE WITH SUSTAINABILITY AND EQUITY (RAISE) GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2.64 MILLION FOR THE NORTH CAROLINA REGIONAL S-LINE MOBILITY HUB PLANNING PROJECT

WHEREAS, Rebuilding America Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) is the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) discretionary grant program previously titled TIGER, then BUILD; *and*


WHEREAS, NCDOT is proposing to partner with Sanford, Apex, Wake Forest, Franklinton, Henderson, and Norlina to submit a RAISE grant application to the USDOT for the 2022 North Carolina Regional S-Line Mobility Hub Planning Project for funding in the amount of \$2.64 Million; *and*

WHEREAS, the RAISE grant will focus on defining the scope, physical location and potential hub layout for a rail stop in Henderson; *and*

WHEREAS, the City of Henderson is responsible for committing a \$190,000 non-federal match to be eligible for participation in this project.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED that the Henderson City Council authorizes the City to submit a RAISE grant application to the USDOT and authorizes the Mayor to sign a letter of support indicating the City's commitment of the \$190,000 non-federal match if the grant application is successfully funded.

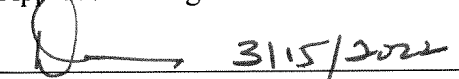
The foregoing Resolution 22-19 upon motion of Council Member Elliott and second by Council Member Burnette, and having been submitted to a roll call vote received the following votes and was **APPROVED** on this the 14th day of March 2022: YES: Burnette, Rainey, Elliott, Daeke, Thorpe-Cooper, Spriggs and Williams. NO: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Coffey.


Eddie Ellington, Mayor

ATTEST:


Esther J. McCrackin, City Clerk

Approved to Legal Form:


D. Rix Edwards, City Attorney

Reference: Minute Book 45, p 465, CAF 22-22

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF THE S-LINE RAIL CORRIDOR AND TO PROVIDE LOCAL FUNDING TO MATCH A FEDERAL GRANT OPPORTUNITY FOR STATION AREA PLANNING AND DESIGN ACTIVITIES

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has a long tradition of progressing successful passenger and freight rail projects and supporting the development of rail infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, NCDOT has worked with state, regional, and federal partners to develop plans for the federally-designated Southeast Corridor, a passenger and freight rail network extending from Washington, D.C. through North Carolina to Jacksonville, Fla.; and

WHEREAS, a Record of Decision to develop the Raleigh to Richmond portion of the Southeast Corridor was approved by the Federal Rail Administration (FRA) on March 2017, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act; and

WHEREAS, the development of the S-Line corridor supports and promotes economic development in communities along the corridor, including those in rural areas; and

WHEREAS, the developed S-Line would provide greater access to jobs, health care, and education and provide new options for the movement of both goods and people; and

WHEREAS, the developed S-Line would provide efficient and reliable commuting options for communities and businesses along the corridor; and

WHEREAS, NCDOT is working with communities along the S-Line to plan stations, infrastructure needs, and other land use considerations near stations to prepare for rail service and maximize the positive benefits of rail service in each community; and

WHEREAS, NCDOT and communities along the S-Line corridor are pursuing a federal Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant opportunity to further analyze possible locations for stations and to study the feasibility of rail stations serving as mobility hubs to connect multiple modes of transportation; and

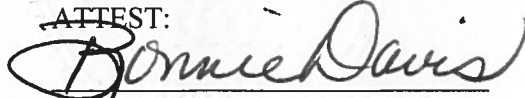
WHEREAS, communities participating in the RAISE grant application must provide a twenty percent local match for their portion of the grant application.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Sanford of Lee County, North Carolina that:

That the City Council supports providing \$190,000 in matching funding for the RAISE grant and supports further planning and design efforts of the S-Line rail corridor, including stations and related infrastructure needs.

Adopted this 15th day of March, 2022.


T. Chet Mann, City of Sanford Mayor

ATTEST:

Bonnie Davis, City of Sanford Clerk