

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

April 6, 2022

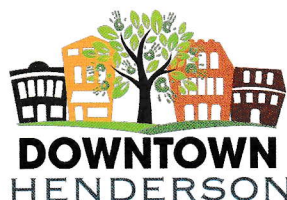
Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

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.

The City of Henderson is currently working with the UNC School of Government on Urban Revitalization Areas in its downtown. In addition to providing new transportation options within our region, the S-Line Mobility Hub Plan would play an integral role in the City's affordable housing considerations for downtown allowing it to expand housing choices.



Additionally, having the S-Line commuter rail service in Henderson would help the City attract new businesses, jobs and residents. It would help create a more lively and diverse downtown with more shopping and dining. The S-line would support our existing and new small businesses and provide greater access for visitors and tourist to enjoy all our area has to offer including the McGregor Hall Performing Arts Center and the camping and water sports of The Kerr Lake State Recreation Area.

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,



Tracy S. Madigan

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The NC Main Street & Rural Planning Center's a Main Street America® Coordinating Program. The center works in regions, counties, cities, towns, downtown districts, and in designated North Carolina Main Street communities, to engage place-making through building asset based economic development strategies that achieve measurable results such as maintenance, business growth, and jobs. As a Main Street America® Coordinating Program, the NC Main Street & Rural Planning Center is part of a successful grassroots network consisting of over 400 Coordinating Programs and over 1,000 neighborhoods in communities across the country committed to creating high quality places and to building stronger communities through preservation based economic development.

