



Diane Cox
Executive Director

April 4, 2022

**Member
Governments**

COUNTIES

- Franklin
- Granville
- Person
- Vance
- Warren

MUNICIPALITIES

- Bunn
- Butner
- Creedmoor
- Franklinton
- Henderson
- Kittrell
- Louisburg
- Macon
- Middleburg
- Norlina
- Oxford
- Roxboro
- Stem
- Stovall
- Warrenton
- Youngsville

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

It is with great pleasure that the Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments (KTCOG) and the Kerr-Tar Rural Planning Organization (KTRPO) supports the *North Carolina Regional S-Line Mobility Hub Plan* application to the United States Department of Transportation for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant for Fiscal Year 2022. This grant, being submitted by the Town of Wake Forest, is 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. This corridor is a planned network of passenger and freight rail lines running from Florida to Washington, DC. The overall intent of the S-Line project is to have passenger rail stops, accommodating 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 Council of Governments supports the development of the Regional S-Line Mobility Hub Plan, through our constituent counties of: Franklin, Vance, and Warren.

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In a separate RAISE grant application being submitted, the Kerr-Tar region is seeking to fund the feasibility study of a greenway trail along portions of the East Coast Greenway located in Granville County and S-Line Rail Corridor located in Warren and Vance Counties, offering an alternative form of transportation suitable to pedestrians and bicyclists. This combined Feasibility Study will focus on alleviating the harmful effects of automobile transportation; provide communities with outdoor passive recreational opportunities; serve as a recruitment tool for industry; and increase the demand for employment associated with tourism.

The Mobility Hub Plan, as proposed, aligns with Kerr-Tar's existing East Coast Greenway and Rural S-Line Corridor Feasibility Study currently being studied by the North Carolina DOT and private partners, as both plans pursue increased multimodal transportation options throughout our region.

The S-Line Rail Corridor is 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 within our communities. 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.

Most sincerely,

Patricia S. Cox
Executive Director

cc: Kerr-Tar Rural Planning Organization Coordinator
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