



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

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March 23, 2022

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

Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to express 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 S-Line passes through three of the four counties served by the Triangle Area Rural Planning Organization—Chatham, Lee, and Moore—and the proposed mobility hub for the City of Sanford would represent an important investment in the future of mobility in our region. Sanford is a city that owes its original founding to the presence of a railroad junction, and is now poised to take advantage of that rail infrastructure in a new and exciting way; and as Sanford grows, with multiple large employment and housing developments already in the pipeline, the need for additional mobility options will only grow larger.

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.

The Triangle Area Rural Planning Organization will have an official resolution of support for this effort on the agenda for consideration at its April 14, 2022 meeting.

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

Sincerely,

Donald Andrews

Donald Andrews
Mayor, Town of Broadway
Chair, Rural Transportation Advisory Committee
Triangle Area Rural Planning Organization