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Speaking UP for a better tomorrow
www.wakeupwakecounty.org

April 7, 2022

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

Re: RAISE 2022 Grant Program

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We are writing to express our 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.

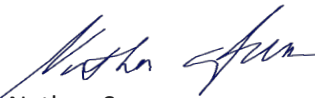
WakeUP Wake County views the S-Line as an imperative piece of the Triangle regions future. This corridor will allow job seekers to access better paying jobs across the area and still be able to be home to make dinner. The Mobility Hub Plan will combine rail options with local bus, safe continuous bike lanes, sidewalks with safe crossings, and land use changes to encourage and require transit-oriented development. This investment directly ties to increasing quality of life, decreasing poverty, and affecting the social determinates of health for the next generation of children.

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.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nathan Spencer".

Nathan Spencer
Executive Director
WakeUP Wake County
wakeupwakecounty.org

*WakeUP Wake County is a 15-year old advocacy and education nonprofit charged with helping guide and educate both elected officials and inform residents of growth opportunities that serve to help the Triangle region population expand while considering equity and climate issues while doing so.