

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: FY2021 RAISE Grant Application – High Point on the RISE: Reimagining Infrastructure for Sustainability and Equity

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Earl and Kathryn Congdon Family Foundation strongly supports the RAISE grant application “High Point on the RISE: Reimagining Infrastructure for Sustainability and Equity” which is the result of a collaboration between the City of High Point, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), and other local stakeholders.

This multimodal project in the heart of Downtown High Point will improve access to transit, jobs, public resources, and opportunities for low-income communities of color. As part of a statewide and regional greenway spine identified in the NCDOT Great Trails State Plan, this project can be a national model for state, regional and local coordination to create a safer, more equitable, and better-connected multimodal transportation network for all users.

The Earl and Kathryn Congdon Family Foundation invests in organizations within the greater High Point area and beyond that promote improved quality of life by reducing barriers to opportunity. Our work is focused in three primary areas in which we hope to make a deep and lasting impact:

1. Increasing access to and the quality of education,
2. addressing critical community needs, and
3. supporting economic development for revitalization and stabilization.

Our primary interest with the RAISE grant application “High Point on the RISE...” is anchored in our third area of focus listed above. Our foundation under the subsidiaries of DAVCO LLC, CEC HP LLC, and 401 English LLC owns the High Point properties located at 400 W English Road, 401 W English Road, 410 W English Road, and 225 N Elm Street known collectively as Congdon Yards. Congdon Yards is a charitable partnership with Business High Point (via HP365 LLC) which directly fulfills the Congdon Foundation focus of supporting economic development for revitalization and stabilization. The long-term impact and ripple effect of this transformational initiative will without a doubt also lead to increased access to and quality of education as well as address critical community needs. The continued growth and success of Congdon Yards and High Point as a whole is largely dependent on public support such as those requested in this grant.

By supporting these efforts, USDOT can showcase a project that aligns closely with its objectives under the Biden Administration's objectives, including enhancing access to opportunities for historically marginalized communities, creating an equitable transportation system that works for everyone, and transitioning to a more environmentally conscience network that prioritizes non-motorized users. This project will deliver healthy, climate-friendly, resilient, and integrated transportation options for residents and visitors of Downtown High Point. It will serve the City of High Point, the State of North Carolina, and its residents well for years to come.

Thank you for considering our application for RAISE Program funding.

Sincerely,



Megan Oglesby

Executive Director, Earl and Kathryn Congdon Family Foundation