



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:

Business High Point – Chamber of Commerce (BHP-CC) 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.

In 2016 BHP-CC received a \$1.5M matching grant from the North Carolina Department of State. Fast forward and the total investment to date is approximately \$50M. The dollars have gone towards the renovation and transformation of two former hosiery mills and the creation of a state of the art production and prototype lab, entrepreneurial center, co-working offices and community spaces – www.congdonyards.com. This is part of a larger effort by the City of High Point to revitalize our downtown. With a new baseball stadium built the early projections were that there would be \$100M in new development in 10 years. We are now projected to do \$300M+ in that time frame.

Recently recognized in the New York Times, Forbes, Architectural Digest and Metropolis Magazine illustrates the truly remarkable efforts in our city. This multimodal would be dramatic in and of itself but combined with the historic change happening around us it would truly be a game changer.

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
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