

Public Library

MARY M. SIZEMORE

DIRECTOR



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 High Point Public Library 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.

Not only does the library provide free access to materials, technology, programming, and career and business support seven days a week, from April through October the library operates a Farmers Market every Saturday featuring locally produced food, health and nutrition information, crafts, music, and family activities. In addition, the library has an extensive teaching garden that staff use year-round to demonstrate simple gardening techniques suitable for urban areas. And in 2022, a fully accessible sensory garden will be created on library property facing Sunset Drive to provide educational and recreational opportunities for those of all ages and abilities. The High Point on the RISE project will significantly increase access to the services provided by the library to residents of underserved neighborhoods.

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary M. Sizemore".

Mary M. Sizemore, Library Director

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