

February 14, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Robeson County African American Cultural Center is pleased to provide a letter of support for **SAFE Lumberton**, *Safer Access for Everyone*, the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) application for a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. SAFE Lumberton would provide funds for complete streets improvements in Lumberton, NC.

This multimodal project in the heart of downtown Lumberton will provide improvements along approximately 2.1 miles of NC 72 between NC 41 and NC 211 (N Roberts Ave), providing enhanced pedestrian connections between downtown and the larger community. NCDOT will work closely with the City of Lumberton on the project, which could serve as a model for the State on how to coordinate with locals and create safe, more equitable, and connected networks for all roadway users.

The Robeson County African American Cultural Center offers a collection of artifacts and paintings/photographs educating visitors and residents on the County's diverse cultural history. The Cultural Center highlights the contributions and accomplishments of local African Americans and serves as a distribution center for disaster relief for the community. SAFE Lumberton's multimodal improvements would provide safer crossings to the African American Cultural Center, encouraging residents and visitors to visit the Center.

This project aligns closely with the Biden administration's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, including improving access opportunities to historically marginalized communities and creating a transportation system that is equitable and works for everyone: motorists and nonmotorists. The project will also improve access to transit, public resources, greenways, jobs, and opportunities for low-income communities.

The African American Cultural Center strongly supports **SAFE Lumberton** for pedestrian improvements on NC 72. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



SAFE SAFER ACCESS FOR EVERYONE
LUMBERTON, NC