



**Robeson County
Partnership for Children, Inc.**

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1/26/2023

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 Partnership for Children 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 RCPC's children's museum, Exploration Station offers creative and diverse experiences, exhibits, and educational programming for young children. The Exploration Station features science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) exhibits as well as exhibits that advance manufacturing to foster life-long learning. SAFE Lumberton's multimodal improvements would provide safer crossings to the Exploration Station, influence residents to visit us and participate in hands-on learning. Increasing the safety of pedestrian travel would allow us to serve more families in marginalized communities. Safer crossing would also allow for large groups of children to follow safely behind adults for field trips and other large events.

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 Robeson County Partnership for Children strongly supports **SAFE Lumberton** for pedestrian improvements on NC 72. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Executive Director



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Smart Start network™

