



# LRCOG

*Lumber River Council of Governments*

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*Dedicated to Regional Excellence*

February 1, 2023

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

Re: City of Lumberton, **SAFE Lumberton**, *Safer Access for Everyone* Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Lumber River RPO, I am 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.

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 non-motorists. The project will also improve access to transit, public resources, greenways, jobs, and opportunities for low-income communities.

We strongly support **SAFE Lumberton** for pedestrian improvements on NC 72. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Janet F. Robertson, MPA  
Lumber River RPO Coordinator  
Lumber River Council of Governments

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