

Mayor
Hugh C. Credle
Town Administrator
V. Connor Winstead, Jr.
Town Clerk
Shanelle B. Harris
Town Attorney
Kris Gardner

Town of Weldon
109 Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 551
Weldon, North Carolina 27890
Tel: (252) 536-4836 Fax: (252) 536-4104

Commissioners
Doris W. Garner
Muzette Kiger
Nancy H. Sandoval
John W. Smith
Stephanie B. Tillery

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

February 9, 2023

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my support for the ***Walk NC: Creating Safer Crossings for NC Communities*** application for the Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program for fiscal year 2023. This grant is being submitted by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT). WALK NC will fund pedestrian countdown signal heads, crosswalks, and accessible routes at signalized intersections in more than a dozen towns and cities in North Carolina. RAISE grant funding will improve pedestrian safety at hundreds of NCDOT-maintained signals in historically underserved communities.

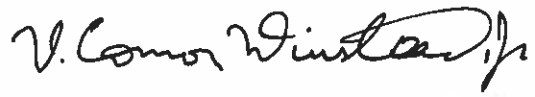
These proposed changes will improve accessibility for people at signalized intersections and provide pedestrians with dedicated WALK phases and marked crosswalks. Additional signal timing improvements will be implemented, and sidewalk gaps constructed where feasible and needed. These pedestrian improvements will address issues of social equity in communities by providing safe crossings and connecting networks, expanding access to jobs, healthy food, recreation, and social services.

Pedestrians in Weldon particularly would benefit from the accessibility improvements funded by WALK NC. Countdown signal heads and enhanced crosswalks would do much to heighten safety and visibility for pedestrian residents and visitors alike, especially in high-traffic areas like Weldon's historic downtown business district and Weldon Elementary Global Academy. Improved pedestrian access and safety also plays a significant role in Weldon's overall community revitalization efforts.

The WALK NC improvements are important to the future of our North Carolina community. The partnerships between the selected communities and regional and state agencies will further connect and improve the quality of life. WALK NC will also foster innovation, growth, and overall vibrancy of our communities.

I respectfully urge your full and fair consideration of the *WALK NC: Creating Safer Crossings for NC Communities* grant application.

Sincerely,



V. Connor Winstead, Jr.
Town Administrator

VCW:cw

Rockfish Capital of The World

