



# CITY OF WILSON

*North Carolina*

INCORPORATED 1849

## Office of the Mayor

February 9, 2023

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

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.

The City of Wilson recently received TIGER funding to help improve our US Highway 301 corridor. Highway 301 was originally constructed as a bypass directly through existing neighborhoods and has acted as a major barrier to residents. The TIGER project upgraded signalization, provided refuge islands, crosswalks and new sidewalks. It is beginning to transform the east side of Wilson by finally reconnecting neighborhoods to jobs, schools and shopping. Other major highways within Wilson need the type of safety improvements achieved through the Highway 301 project. WALK NC will help Cities such as Wilson achieve these goals.

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.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Carlton L. Stevens', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Carlton L. Stevens  
Mayor, City of Wilson

Attachment





# WALK NC

Creating Safer Crossings for NC Communities

## What is RAISE?

The Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program helps communities throughout the United States make much needed infrastructure improvements. The RAISE grants were created originally under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act as Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grants; however, RAISE grants can be used for a wide variety of projects. As part of the new Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, there will be \$1.5 billion available in funding for 2023 project applications. The application deadline is February 28, 2023 and selections will be announced by June 28, 2023.



Before Typical Improvements



After Typical Improvements

## Improving Signalized Intersections for Pedestrians

WALK NC is a grant for which the North Carolina DOT (NCDOT) is applying to 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 in the towns shown in the map below.



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. NCDOT identified candidate locations based on a statewide signal inventory and site review. If awarded, NCDOT Divisions will administer the project improvements.

## How You Can Help

Please complete a **letter of support** and submit to Catherine Chestnutt at [cchestnutt@vhb.com](mailto:cchestnutt@vhb.com) by **February 10, 2023**. Help NCDOT and USDOT learn more about the need for the proposed improvements in your community by **distributing this brief online survey** (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WALKNC>) to local residents by January 27, 2023. We appreciate your collaboration and partnership as we hope to secure this RAISE grant and improve pedestrian safety at intersections.