



City of Kinston

Post Office Box 339
Kinston, North Carolina 28502
Phone: 252.939.3111 Fax: 252.939.3388

DON HARDY
Mayor

RHONDA BARWICK
City Manager

JAMES P. CAULEY III
City Attorney

DEBRA THOMPSON
City Clerk

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

February 7, 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.

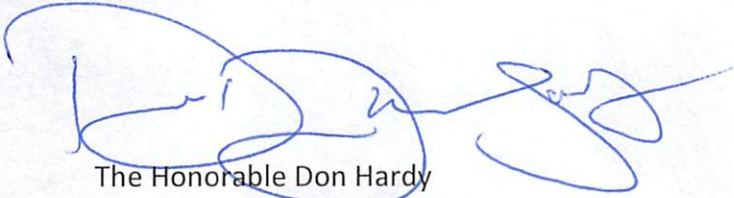
The North Carolina Department of Transportation maintains over 60 signalized intersections in the Kinston area, yet only one intersection currently has pedestrian signal heads. There have been several vehicle/pedestrian accidents in recent years, including two that resulted in pedestrian fatalities, both in economically disadvantaged areas. As the City of Kinston continues to see growth in tourism and pursue more pedestrian and bicycle improvements such as recent streetscape improvements downtown and extensions of our Riverwalk, safety provisions for these modes of transportation are critical to their success.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Don Hardy', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

The Honorable Don Hardy
Mayor
City of Kinston

cc: Rhonda Barwick, City Manager