

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

February 1, 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 City of Rockingham has multiple intersections with needed pedestrian improvements such as the intersection of Fayetteville Road (US Hwy 1), N. Long Drive, and Richmond Road. This intersection lacks any crosswalks, pedestrian signals, and requires pedestrians to cross 3-4 lanes of traffic to successfully traverse the intersection. Grant funding could significantly improve the pedestrian safety at such intersection.

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,



John P. Hutchinson  
Mayor  
City of Rockingham