



## Central Pines Rural Planning Organization

*A Program of Central Pines Regional Council*

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February 8, 2024

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 **Wake Forest S-Line Mobility Hub** application for the Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Program for 2024. This grant is being submitted by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) in partnership with the Town of Wake Forest.

The **Wake Forest S-Line Mobility Hub ("Mobility Hub")** will serve to advance regional multimodal transportation along the S-Line Rail Corridor in central North Carolina – adding opportunities for local connections to goods and services, improving social equity in historically disadvantaged communities, supporting sustainable transportation, and spurring economic growth. This **Mobility Hub** will complete construction of a mobility hub in Wake Forest, NC – a key community in the overall S-Line Passenger Rail system. This **Mobility Hub** will be the first constructed mobility hub along the corridor. This effort builds off of significant federal grant awards for the design and construction of the S-Line Rail Corridor up to Wake Forest, and the previously awarded RAISE grant application for feasibility study, NEPA, and preliminary engineering of the Wake Forest Mobility Hub site.

This mobility hub will be a place of accessible, equitable multimodal connectivity, offering an integrated suite of mobility services, amenities, and supporting technologies, which will allow passengers to transfer modes in a safe and convenient manner. The **Mobility Hub** will allow this community to capitalize on the S-line corridor construction by optimizing first and last mile solutions and connect with each other.

Central Pines RPO has supported the development of the S-Line since the early days and continues to work with NCDOT to bring this project to fruition. Central Pines RPO supports the **Wake Forest S-Line Mobility Hub** efforts to improve mobility and access to all transportation modes in our Region and beyond. Beyond the transportation improvements, the mobility hubs will also enhance the attractiveness and sustainability of the downtowns in which they are developed. The **Wake Forest S-Line Mobility Hub** is the first step, including a future hub in Sanford, here in Central Pines RPO's Region.

The S-Line corridor is historically significant to central North Carolina, and it will shape the future of the region. The partnerships between Wake Forest and regional and state agencies will further multimodal, equitable, and accessible travel through the State, leading to new economic opportunities in communities

whose histories have been greatly affected by the growth and decline of rail. The **Mobility Hub** will be an essential element in the reinvigoration, quality of life, growth, and overall vibrancy in our communities.

I respectfully urge your full consideration of the **Wake Forest S-Line Mobility Hub** grant application.

Sincerely,

*Kirk Smith*

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RTAC Chair

*Karyl Fuller*

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CPRPO Secretary