



February 12, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of Moore County Economic Development Partnership (MCEDP), I am writing in support of 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.

This project will complete the construction of a mobility hub in Wake Forest, NC – a key community in the overall S-Line Passenger Rail system – that will be the first constructed hub along the corridor. The Wake Forest S-Line 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 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 the 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.

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.

Thank you for your consideration of this Wake Forest S-Line Mobility Hub grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Natalie D. Hawkins'.

Natalie D. Hawkins, PMP
President

PO Box 5885 • Pinehurst, NC 28370-5885
910-246-0311 • moorecountyedp.org