



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

February 19, 2024

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express our 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.

The subject application is an important incremental step towards safe and effective inter-community passenger rail service on this corridor; which has economic and social value far beyond its cost, far beyond the locality. We too anticipate becoming a regional mobility hub in the transit corridor, capable of hosting the largest passenger trains with intersecting access to multiple forms of other transportation, including aircraft. Such activity breeds activity up and down the entire S-line and will result in a high multiplier for both public and private enterprise further reinforcing the use of such hubs.

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.

Your consideration of the **Wake Forest S-Line Mobility Hub** application is most appreciated and has profound effect.

Sincerely,

Terrell Blackmon
City Manager

TERRELL BLACKMON
TERRELLBLACKMON@HENDERSON.NC.GOV
252-430-5700

134 ROSE AVENUE POST OFFICE BOX 1434 HENDERSON, NC 27563
WWW.HENDERSON.NC.GOV