

September 11, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Greensboro Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, I enthusiastically support the City of Greensboro and North Carolina Department of Transportation's collaborative application for a planning grant under the U.S. Department of Transportation's Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Program, in partnership with the Greensboro Metropolitan Planning Organization.

We understand the Plan will study the seven-mile segment of US 29 between I-40 and I-785 in East Greensboro, an access-controlled highway bisecting a historically Black community. Its construction destroyed important community assets, and this physical barrier continues to limit mobility and community connectivity. The neighborhoods impacted by the construction of US 29 have an ongoing legacy of Environmental Justice concerns related to poverty, vehicle access, and air pollution.

The Plan will be developed through a process to gauge the issues, envision the future, build solutions, and measure success. Analysis from the MPO's upcoming development of a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan from the SS4A grant award will provide data to support the Plan. Local stakeholders will be engaged in each step, and we believe this focus on community involvement will help rebuild community trust and provide valuable insight into the lived experience of local residents. A shared vision for the roadway will help to identify mobility needs and appropriate multimodal solutions to meaningfully address the historical inequities created by US 29. We hope this Plan can serve as a template for future transportation planning efforts in Greensboro as the City and State partner to create a safer, more equitable, and sustainable transportation system.

Greensboro has a deep, nationally significant history of activism dating back to its central role in the civil rights movement. This Plan will build on this legacy by creating a multimodal blueprint to retrofit this critical corridor, mitigate past harm, and serve the community it once marginalized. Due to this rich history, the project is titled "Accelerating Greensboro Growth by Increasing Equity and Safety" or "AGGIES" for short.

I hope you will favorably consider this funding request.


Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marikay Abuzaiter". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Marikay Abuzaiter,  
Transportation Advisory Committee Chair

**Lead Planning Agency: City of Greensboro Department of Transportation**

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