

September 26, 2023

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

RE: NORTH CAROLINA S-LINE MOBILITY HUB PROGRAM

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The North Carolina S-Line Mobility Hub Program application for the Department of Transportation's Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Program for fiscal year 2023 supports project development in the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization's (DCHC) planning area. This grant is submitted and supported by communities across the NC Piedmont in partnership with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT).

The North Carolina S-Line Mobility Hub Program ("Mobility Hub Program") will 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. The application also includes intercity passenger rail infrastructure and a platform at the Research Triangle Park (RTP), a tremendous economic driver in our region's center. The Mobility Hub Program builds on the planning and preliminary design investment for each mobility hub detailed in the North Carolina S-Line Mobility Hub Plan that was awarded RAISE funding for completion. This Mobility Hub Program will move each mobility hub forward to a shovel-ready phase or into construction.

Each mobility hub will be accessible, multimodally connective, integrate mobility services, and offer amenities; all of which allow passengers to transfer modes safely and conveniently. The RCN Program continues our impactful work for creating mobility hubs, reactivating the communities along the S-line corridor, and reconnecting neighboring jurisdictions. The Mobility Hub Program capitalizes on the S-line corridor construction by optimizing first and last mile solutions and connecting broader communities with each other.

Passenger rail service to RTP is included in DCHC MPO's long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan, the Durham County Transit Plan, and our Comprehensive Transportation Plan. Rail options provide access for both transit choice and transit dependent riders with consistency not available to other modes.

The S-Line corridor is historically significant to central North Carolina, and it shapes our future. S-Line community partnerships with regional and state agencies advance multi-modal, 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 Program will be an essential piece in community reinvigoration, quality of life, growth, and overall vibrancy.

Please consider the North Carolina S-Line Mobility Hub Program grant application's significant merit and deliverability.

Sincerely Yours in Service,



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