



Brenda Howerton, *Chair*
3325 Tarleton West
Durham, NC 27713
Email: bhowerton@dconc.gov

Wendy Jacobs, *Vice-Chair*
4308 Rivermont Road
Durham, NC 27712
Email: wjacobs@dconc.gov

Nida Allam
104 Wellwater Ave
Durham, NC 27703
Email: nallam@dconc.gov

Nimasheena Burns
1727 Great Bend Drive
Durham, NC 27704
Email: nburns@dconc.gov

Heidi Carter
31 Falling Water Drive
Durham, NC 27713
Email: hcarter@dconc.gov

COUNTY OF DURHAM BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 26, 2023

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 **North Carolina S-Line Mobility Hub Program** application for the Department of Transportation's Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Program for fiscal year 2023. This grant is being submitted by Durham County in partnership with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and other communities along the S-Line corridor.

The **North Carolina S-Line Mobility Hub Program** ("**Mobility Hub Program**") will serve to advance regional multimodal transportation along the S-Line Rail Corridor and Research Triangle Park 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 Program** will build on the planning and preliminary design work for each mobility hub detailed in the North Carolina S-Line Mobility Hub Plan that was awarded RAISE funding for completion and the Research Triangle Park's Transit-Oriented Development planning. This **Mobility Hub Program** will move each mobility hub forward to a shovel-ready phase or construction.

Each mobility hub will be a place of accessible, 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 RCN Program would continue this impactful work for the creation of the mobility hubs, reactivating the communities along the S-line corridor and their neighboring jurisdictions. The **Mobility Hub Program** will allow communities to capitalize on the S-line corridor construction by optimizing first and last mile solutions and connect with each other.

The Mobility Hub Program will benefit Durham County by constructing a new rail station in Research Triangle Park. Research Triangle Park is an economic engine for our County and the State. Construction of the new station will improve access to this major employment center for residents across our region, including many communities that are historically disadvantaged. Including this station with the S-Line corridor helps reconnect urban and rural communities and promotes shared prosperity and economic development.

The S-Line corridor is historically significant to central North Carolina, and it will shape the future of the region. The partnerships between the communities along the S-Line, Research Triangle Park, and regional and state agencies will further 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 the reinvigoration, quality of life, growth, and overall vibrancy in our communities.

I respectfully urge your full consideration of the ***North Carolina S-Line Mobility Hub Program*** grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brenda Howerton". The signature is fluid and includes a long, sweeping horizontal flourish at the end.

Brenda Howerton, Chair
Durham Board of County Commissioners