



**Triangle Area Rural Planning Organization
A Program of Central Pines Regional Council**

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September 22, 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 the City of Sanford 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 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. 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 Triangle Area Rural Planning Organization (TARPO) serves a four-county area in central North Carolina. TARPO provides transportation planning services to its member governments, which include Lee County and the City of Sanford. We are supportive of our members' efforts along with NCDOT, to improve transportation access and connectivity along the S-Line Corridor.

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 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 black ink, appearing to read "Karyl M. Fuller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karyl" being more prominent.

Karyl M. Fuller, GISP CZO
Secretary, Triangle Area Rural Planning Organization