



VANCE-GRANVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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President's Office

252-492-2061

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

September 26, 2023

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. Vance-Granville Community College supports the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and other communities along the S-Line corridor in making application for these funds.

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.

Vance-Granville Community College serves a large physical area in north central North Carolina – essentially the land-size of the State of Rhode Island! Our residents work within a 1.5 hour commuteshed across our region and the larger metropolitan areas of Durham and Raleigh. The S-Line Mobility Hub program is vital to providing access for our students and graduates as they pursue internship/apprenticeship and workforce opportunities in our geographic area.

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 cursive script that reads "Rachel M. Desmarais".

Rachel M. Desmarais, Ph.D.
President