



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. This grant is being submitted by *Vance3 County Schools* 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.

As the Superintendent of the Vance County School District, I serve 16 schools and over 5,000 students with limited resources and opportunities to travel within the state of North Carolina. As our community of educators continues to enhance experiences for our students, the **Mobility Hub Program** will allow for opportunities and access to the great state of NC and all that it has to offer our students. As a rural economically disadvantaged district, the limited funds we have available will be used more effectively to create the high impact experiences we are trying to achieve for our students.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Cindy W. Bennett'.

Cindy W. Bennett, PhD
Superintendent

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1724 Graham Ave, Henderson, NC 27536 • Phone: (252) 492-2127