



## WAKE FOREST AREA

CHAMBER

*a business development center*

September 20, 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 Wake Forest Area Chamber 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 a community of over 55,000 residents and growing, we believe this project provides the connectivity we desperately need, especially as our funding for Capital Boulevard has fallen out of the State Transportation Improvement Plan. 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 "Elizabeth A. Simpers", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Liz Simpers, President  
The Wake Forest Area Chamber  
350 South White Street  
Wake Forest, NC 27587