

10/18/2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I enthusiastically support NCDOT's application for a planning grant under the U.S. Department of Transportation's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program, in partnership with the Greensboro Metropolitan Planning Organization and the City of Greensboro.

We understand the Plan will study the seven-mile segment of US 29 between I-40 and I-785 in East Greensboro, an access controlled highway bisecting a historically Black community. Its construction destroyed important community assets, and this physical barrier continues to limit mobility and community connectivity. The neighborhoods impacted by the construction of US 29 have an ongoing legacy of Environmental Justice concerns related to poverty, vehicle access and air pollution.

We believe the Plan's focus on community involvement will help rebuild community trust and provide valuable insight into the lived experience of local residents. A shared vision for the roadway will help to identify mobility needs and appropriate multimodal solutions to meaningfully address the historical inequities created by US 29. We hope this Plan can serve as a template for future transportation planning efforts in Greensboro as we partner with the City to create a safer, more equitable and sustainable transportation system.

Greensboro has a deep, nationally significant history of activism dating back to Greensboro's central role in the civil rights movement. This Plan will build on this legacy by creating a multimodal blueprint to retrofit the roadway, mitigate past harm and serve the community it once marginalized.

I hope you will favorably consider this funding request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "B. Bernetiae Reed".

B. Bernetiae Reed

Documentarian / Archivist / Oral historian