



LIBRARIES

September 17, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590
SUBJECT: Reconnecting East Greensboro and Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of City of Greensboro, I enthusiastically support the City of Greensboro's application for a planning grant under the U.S. Department of Transportation's Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Program. I understand this proposal has been prepared in partnership with the N.C. Department of Transportation and Greensboro Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization.

The Reconnecting East Greensboro Plan will study the neighborhoods around seven miles of US Highway 29 between I-40 and I-785 in East Greensboro, a 75-year-old, 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 a generational legacy of poverty and disconnect stemming from the barrier created by this multi-lane highway.

A successful plan is essential for the Department of Libraries/Museum of the City of Greensboro to effectively serve the residents of East Greensboro, particularly those who will benefit from the new Windsor Chavis Nocho Community Complex. This plan aligns with the mission of libraries and will enable the library to assist residents in their pursuit of employment, career exploration, and overall educational advancement.

An inclusive, community-driven planning process will define issues, identify solutions, and create integrated solutions tailored to our community. Local stakeholders will be engaged in each step, and we believe this focused community involvement will help rebuild community trust and provide valuable insight into the lived experience of residents. A shared vision for the community will meaningfully address the historical inequities created by US 29 and inform future transportation improvements within the corridor.

East Greensboro residents have a prominent history of fighting, and in some cases dying, for equal rights when students from schools in this corridor led one of the first non-violent sit-in protests in the U.S. Our Plan will build on this legacy by creating a multimodal blueprint to retrofit this critical corridor, mitigate past harm, and serve the community it has marginalized.

I hope you will favorably consider this funding request.

Sincerely,

Respectfully,

Brigitte H. Blanton
Library Director
Greensboro Public Library

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