



9/11/2024

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.

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,

Goldie Wells  
Councilmember, City of Greensboro