



LRCOG

Dedicated to Regional Excellence

March 30, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: City of Lumberton, **SAFE Lumberton**, *Safer Access for Everyone* Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Lumber River Council of Governments, I am pleased to submit this letter indicating our support for the application of the City of Lumberton’s **SAFE Lumberton**, *Safer Access for Everyone*, for a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. Leaders within our region consisting of Bladen, Hoke, Richmond, Robeson, and Scotland counties, understand the critical need for greater transportation access and safety improvements within the City of Lumberton.

SAFE Lumberton would provide funds for complete streets improvements in Lumberton, NC. This multimodal project in the heart of downtown Lumberton will provide improvements along approximately 2.1 miles of NC 72 between NC 41 and NC 211 (N Roberts Ave), providing enhanced pedestrian connections between downtown and the larger community. The city will work closely with the North Carolina Department of Transportation on the project, which could serve as a model for the State on how to coordinate with locals and create safe, more equitable, and connected networks for all roadway users.

This project aligns closely with the Biden administration’s new Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, including improving access opportunities to historically marginalized communities and creating a transportation system that is equitable and works for everyone: motorists and non-motorists. The project will also improve access to transit, public resources, greenways, jobs, and opportunities for low-income communities.

We strongly support **SAFE Lumberton** for pedestrian improvements on NC 72. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Richardson, JD/MBA
Executive Director

/dr

Member Governments

BLADEN COUNTY

Bladenboro • Clarkton • Dublin
East Arcadia • Elizabethtown
Tar Heel • White Lake

HOKE COUNTY

Raeford

RICHMOND COUNTY

Dobbins Heights • Ellerbe • Hamlet
Hoffman • Norman
Rockingham

SCOTLAND COUNTY

Gibson • Laurinburg • Wagram

ROBESON COUNTY

Fairmont • Lumber Bridge • Lumberton
Marietta • Maxton • McDonald
Orrum • Parkton • Pembroke
Proctorville • Red Springs • Rennert
Rowland • St. Pauls

Equal Opportunity Employer