

**Public Schools of Robeson
County**

**Post Office Drawer 2909
Lumberton, North Carolina 28359
(910) 671-6000**

April 1, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Robeson County Public Schools is pleased to provide a letter of support for **SAFE Lumberton**, *Safer Access for Everyone*, the City of Lumberton's application for a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. 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.

Robeson County Public Schools is a county-wide public school system with roughly 23,000 students enrolled in 36 schools. Robeson County Public Schools is one of the largest school systems in North Carolina and has 2,100 certified employees including teachers, principals, and counselors along with about 1,100 classified employees. SAFE Lumberton's multimodal improvements would provide safer crossings to the administrative building for the public school's system.

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 nonmotorists. The project will also improve access to transit, public resources, greenways, jobs, and opportunities for low-income communities.

Robeson County Public Schools strongly supports **SAFE Lumberton** for pedestrian improvements on NC 72. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Dr. Freddie Williamson
Superintendent