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April 4, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

UNC Health Southeastern 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 street 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.

UNC Health Southeastern is a comprehensive healthcare system that offers an array of services through its affiliated divisions. The medical center offers a combination of acute care, intensive care, and psychiatric services to more than 13,000 inpatients and 60,000 emergency patients annually. UNC Health Southeastern is a non-profit organization operated by a local board of trustees and managed by UNC Health Care. SAFE Lumberton's multimodal improvements would improve safety and the quality of life for residents and visitors in Lumberton.

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 no motorists. The project will also improve access to transit, public resources, greenways, jobs, and opportunities for low-income communities.

UNC Health Southeastern strongly supports **SAFE Lumberton** for pedestrian improvements on NC 72. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Ellington".

Chris Ellington,
President and CEO