

September 7, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Office of the Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT-TRIANGLE MOBILITY HUB**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO), I would like to express our strong support of GoTriangle's FY2023 Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) program grant application for the **Triangle Mobility Hub and SPOKE** project. The Triangle Mobility Hub will anchor the regional transit network enabling **Sustainable, Prompt transit connections to Opportunities for Knowledge and Employment (SPOKE)**. The Triangle Mobility Hub and SPOKE project will provide high-quality transit connections between historically disadvantaged communities burdened by the Durham Freeway (NC 147) and everyday destinations including shopping, healthcare, community facilities, parks, education, workforce training, and employment. The Triangle Mobility Hub and SPOKE project will provide affordable and sustainable mobility options to residents with low or no vehicle ownership, with low incomes, and who identify as Black, Indigenous, or a Person of Color that are burdened with poor air-quality and limited access to everyday destinations and community prosperity imposed by the Durham Freeway.

Located in Research Triangle Park (RTP), the center of the growing and vibrant Triangle Region, the Triangle Mobility Hub and SPOKE project will catalyze equitable development connected by high quality-transit servicing communities across the Triangle. The project will enable the creation of a high-quality, frequent and reliable regional transit operated by battery-electric buses connecting Downtown Durham, North Carolina Central University, McDougald Terrace, Durham Technical Community College to RTP and the regional transit network at the Triangle Mobility Hub. RTP and GoTriangle envision creating and leveraging new community partnerships to incorporate affordable housing into the site and along high-quality regional transit routes to provide equitable access to transit and economic opportunity in the Triangle.

The DCHC MPO is the regional organization responsible for transportation planning for the western half of the Triangle, including the proposed site for the Triangle Mobility Hub. The DCHC MPO supports GoTriangle, and local transit agencies in our region, through coordination of local transit plans and integration of transportation projects across jurisdictional boundaries. The project is supported by local and regional transportation plans. The project is included within the MPO's Connect 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, in addition to the county transit plans for Orange and Durham counties. If the project is awarded federal funding, DCHC MPO would work with GoTriangle and NCDOT to program those funds in the State

Transportation Improvement Program The Triangle Mobility Hub would further DCHC MPO's goals of a comprehensive and multi-modal regional transportation network.

In summary, I fully support the efforts of GoTriangle as they seek to fund the Triangle Mobility Hub and SPOKE project and will continue to support the project as we work together to meet the needs of the public. I look forward to hearing about the success of the application.

Sincerely,

Jenn Weaver, Chair  
Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization