



Date: February 15, 2023

To: Jenn Weaver, Chair—DCHC Metropolitan Planning Organization

From: Evian Patterson, Transportation Planning Manager – City of Durham

CC: Sean Egan, Director, Transportation—City of Durham

Subject: City of Durham’s Request for MPO Letter of Support for USDOT Areas of Persistent Poverty Grant

The purpose of this memorandum is to request a letter of support from the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC) in support of the City of Durham’s (COD) grant application for the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) Areas of Persistent Poverty (AOPP) grant program.

For the FY2023 AOPP application cycle, the City of Durham (COD) proposes a planning study to establish a mobility hub at the Village Transit Center (VTC) to provide equitable access to transit and improve connections to employment and educational opportunities for the community. Current transit facilities are inadequate for the robust level of transit ridership. The new mobility hub will offer significant improvements to passenger services and provide amenities such as weather shelters and seating, accessibility for disabled populations, and real time bus arrival and departure information. Improvements to passenger safety and security such as lighting and security cameras will be implemented.

This study will advance preliminary analysis of the VTC from the City’s Better Bus Project, which examined alternate locations for transit facilities in an area with some of the highest boarding in the GoDurham system. The City is requesting Federal Funding to support site planning through final design and construction documents for a mobility hub at the VTC, east of Downtown Durham, to provide equitable access to transit and enhance passenger services and amenities. The mobility hub can also connect a range of mobility services, which will encourage a modal shift away from driving personal vehicles and mitigate climate change among residents who may be hesitant to use the system due to concerns about the safety and efficiency of local transit as a mobility option.

The City’s GoDurham transit services provide residents and visitors with an affordable and reliable transportation option and is vital for riders, who are often essential workers, seniors, students, people of color, and low-wealth individuals. 80% of GoDurham riders are people of color and 72% of riders report incomes of less than \$25,000.

Attached herewith is a draft Letter of Support for your consideration, which the COD is requesting signature of support from the MPO Board by March 9, 2023. The COD intends to submit the application on March 10, 2023.