

DURHAM • CHAPEL HILL • CARRBORO
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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November 11, 2022

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
 US Department of Transportation
 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
 Washington, DC 20590

RE: 2022 CRISI GRANT APPLICATION – NCRR CP CLEGG TO CP CARY SIDING EXTENSION

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The North Carolina Railroad Company (NCRR) requests \$19.7 million in Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) funding to facilitate the construction of a 4-mile siding extension from Clegg at Milepost 67-NC to Cary at Milepost 72-NC (referred to as the “Project”). Estimated to cost \$32.5 million, The Project includes detailed design, railroad signals construction, track work, and crossing improvements. NCRR will contribute \$12.8 million in matching funds. This project supports the NCDOT funded McCrimmon Parkway Grade Separation (NCDOT TIP #U-5747).

This Project, located on the NCRR H Line / Norfolk Southern Railway NC Line between the towns of Morrisville and Cary in Wake County, NC, is designed to provide the following benefits:

- Improves safety through resurfacing and new crossing signal infrastructure at major at grade crossing located at Morrisville Carpenter Road;
- Accommodates a future proposed fifth and desired sixth Amtrak service roundtrip between Raleigh and Charlotte as part of Amtrak’s “Connect US” vision plan;
- Improves service reliability of freight and intercity passenger by reducing conflict with freight rail;
- Improves railroad network fluidity by enhancing meet/pass infrastructure; and
- Supports communities from large urban centers (i.e. Charlotte) to rural areas (i.e. Selma/Pine Level) by providing reliable intercity passenger services consistent with the MPO’s adopted Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

The improvements critically support equity, safety, network and supply chain resiliency in the freight and passenger rail networks in the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill Triangle region.

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization supports this project and the North Carolina Railroad Company’s CRISI grant application.

Sincerely,

Doug Plachcinski, AICP, CFM
 Executive Director