

DURHAM • CHAPEL HILL • CARRBORO
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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March 8, 2023

Ms. Nuria Fernandez
 Office of the Administrator
 Federal Transit Administration
 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
 Washington, DC 20590
 United States

Dear Ms. Fernandez,

I write this letter to express strong support for the City of Durham to receive funding under the Areas of Persistent Poverty Program. The City is submitting an application under this program to advance planning work to improve GoDurham service to communities in Durham located in Areas of Persistent Poverty.

The City of Durham is planning for a mobility hub at the Village Transit Center 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.

The City's GoDurham transit system provides residents and visitors 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. The Village Transit Center, located in the heart of the East Durham is the second highest boarding location in the GoDurham network and provides a vital connection for Durham residents to employment and essential services throughout the City.

These projects will help to advance the City's Racial Equity goals and will improve the quality of life, access to transit and health of Durham residents. I advocate for the City of Durham to receive federal funding to advance these projects and respectfully request and appreciate your time in considering these applications.

Sincerely,

Jenn Weaver, Chair
 DCHC MPO Board