

DURHAM • CHAPEL HILL • CARRBORO
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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September 14, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The DCHC MPO Board is pleased to write this letter to express strong support for the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC-MPO) to receive funding under the FY2022 Safe Streets and Roads for All Program. The DCHC-MPO is the regional organization responsible for transportation planning for the western part of the Research Triangle Area in North Carolina.

DCHC-MPO is submitting an application under this program to fund development of a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan for regional improvements covering the urbanized area for which the DCHC-MPO coordinates and makes decisions on planning efforts. Four municipalities and three Counties will come together to develop this Action Plan: the City of Durham, the Towns of Chapel Hill, Carrboro and Hillsborough, and the Counties of Chatham, Durham, and Orange. All groups share a commitment to moving towards a Vision Zero goal and planning for low cost, high impact safety improvements.

The DCHC-MPO is committed to safety and equity as demonstrated in the adopted *Connect 2050 Plan*, some of the foundations of which include investments in safer streets, user-focused transit services, and greater access to job hubs from traditionally under-represented neighborhoods. As a regional effort led by the MPO, the project will lead with an equity focus to promote investment in underserved communities in the region. A diverse group of public and private stakeholders will be engaged to promote regional buy-in for the Action Plan such as the North Carolina Department of Transportation, County Health Departments, and others such as local universities, community groups and large employers in the region.

This letter of support also serves to confirm that the DCHC MPO has local funds in amounts not to exceed \$50K collected pursuant to its FY21 Unified Planning Work Program that are available to contribute to the anticipated \$100K local match required for the SS4A grant award. The remainder of the local match, in the amount of \$50K, will be provided through NCDOT's Traffic Safety Unit.

Development of this Action Plan will help advance regional goals of preventing death and serious injuries on roads and streets. The DCHC MPO Board strongly supports and recommends that the DCHC-MPO receive federal funding to advance this project and respectfully request and appreciate your time in considering this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenn Weaver", is positioned above the printed name.

Jenn Weaver

Chair, MPO Board