

March 9, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write this letter on behalf of the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) to express strong support for the City of Durham to receive funding under the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program for 2022. The City is submitting an application under this program to advance a series of improvements along the Holloway St. (NC-98) corridor in East Durham to enhance transit facilities, sidewalk connections and pedestrian safety, as well as bicycle facilities and network connectivity to prioritize the needs of vulnerable users in a corridor with a tragic history of serious injuries and fatalities.

The City of Durham adopted Vision Zero in 2017 and continues to develop projects that equitably increase pedestrian safety, prioritize access to transit, and better connect multimodal access throughout the city and to regional greenways and trails. The City developed the GoDurham Better Bus Study to design street, sidewalk, and bus stop improvements that provide safe access to bus stops, enhance comfort at bus stops, and improve bus service on GoDurham routes. Holloway Street was selected as Transit Emphasis Corridor (TEC) given increased ridership and access needs as well as significantly serving Justice-40 communities, a key priority for the RAISE program. The COD proposes to include the Holloway TEC as a natural connection to improving multimodal access, pedestrian safety, and a critical connection to greenways and trails throughout the NC-98 corridor, including Access to Transit improvements along Junction Rd. connecting to Holloway included in the Better Bus Project.

In 2018, DCHC MPO, NC Capital Area MPO (CAMPO) and NCDOT coordinated a study of the NC-98 Corridor to identify safety and mobility improvements in the corridor from US-70 in Durham County through Wake County to U.S. 401 in Franklin County. Priority recommendations included improving a four-lane urban cross section with median from US-70 to Sherron Road, in order to increase capacity to accommodate current and future volumes and provide design improvements for safety concerns throughout the corridor. This portion was subsequently included in NCDOT 2020-2029 STIP (U-6120) to construct safety improvements, and widen to add median, bicycle lanes, sidewalks, transit stop improvements and traffic signals where needed.

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.

Construction of these improvements will help advance the City's Racial Equity vision and will improve the quality of life, access to transit and safety of residents of Durham and the greater DCHC MPO region. I advocate for the City of Durham to receive federal funding to advance these projects and respectfully request and appreciate your time in considering this application.

Sincerely,

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

