

DURHAM • CHAPEL HILL • CARRBORO
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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February 8, 2023

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 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 its “Safe, Equitable Streets to Transit” application under this program to advance a series of improvements along the Holloway Street corridor in East Durham to enhance transit facilities, sidewalk and pedestrian safety, and multimodal connectivity, and 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’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 City is committed to providing every GoDurham rider a dignified transit experience, including safe and accessible pathways to bus stops and stations throughout the system.

The City completed 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 a 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 the Holloway TEC and safe access to transit on Junction Road as a natural connection to improving multimodal access, pedestrian safety, and critical connections to greenways and trails along the corridor.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has included \$106,000 in State Highway Trust Fund dollars in the State Transportation Improvement Program for the NC 98 (HOLLOWAY STREET) TRANSIT CORRIDOR. CONSTRUCT ACCESS AND BUS STOP IMPROVEMENTS (TD-5294) project. NCDOT supports the use of this funding for the non-federal match for the City of Durham’s RAISE 2023 application for Safe Streets to Transit improvements in the Holloway corridor.

Construction of these improvements will 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 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
 DCHC MPO Board