

**DURHAM • CHAPEL HILL • CARRBORO
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

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November 10, 2021

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 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 5339(b) Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program. The City is submitting an application under this program to advance construction to improve the Durham Station Transportation Center (Durham Station), providing functional improvements that address space needs, safety concerns, maintenance issues, and user-experience enhancements. Current transit facilities are inadequate for the robust level of transit ridership at Durham Station.

The City of Durham is planning improvements to Durham Station to address functional improvements, while providing GoDurham the ability to grow. The proposed project includes improvements to the bus island, including providing additional shade and weather protection through expanded canopies, restrooms, additional seating, and a new customer service security kiosk. In addition to the bus island, the improvements would relocate the kiss-and-ride location to optimize the existing site, provide needed pavement repairs, and increase the number of bus bays from 20 to 28, allowing for increased transit service.

GoDurham provides 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. Improvements at Durham Station, Durham's busiest transit facility, will allow the City of Durham to continue providing equitable access to transit and improve connections to employment and educational opportunities for Justice40 communities.

Construction of these improvements will help advance the City's Racial Equity vision 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 this application.

Sincerely,

Wendy Jacobs, Chair
Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization