



Date: February 16, 2022

To: Jenn Weaver, Chair—DCHC Metropolitan Planning Organization

From: Evian Patterson, Transportation Planning Manager – City of Durham

CC: Sean Egan, Director, Transportation—City of Durham

Subject: City of Durham’s Request for MPO Letter of Support for USDOT RAISE Grant

The purpose of this memorandum is to request a letter of support from the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC) in support of the City of Durham’s (COD) grant application for the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program.

For the FY2022 RAISE application cycle, the City of Durham (COD) proposes 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.

Additionally, 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.

Utilizing NCDOT Complete Streets Demand scoring analysis, the COD identified significant portions in high demand categories along the NC-98 Corridor, on Holloway between Roxboro St. and Lynn Rd., as well as the segment of Junction Rd. that connects to Holloway. In addition, we found that from 2011-2020 the corridor experienced 20 severe and fatal crashes, among which five were pedestrian fatalities, as shown in Exhibit A below.

The City of Durham requests MPO Board support in its effort to significantly improve multimodal access, increase roadway safety and network connectivity in East Durham as these improvements will address 2050 MTP Goals and to improve safety, equity and sustainability within the MPO region.

Enclosed herewith is a draft Letter of Support, which the COD will work with MPO staff to finalize for Board chair signature by March 15, 2022. The COD intends to submit the application in early April 2022.

Exhibit A – Project Area and Vision Zero Crash History

