



Date: January 19, 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 FY2023 RAISE application cycle, the City of Durham (COD) proposes a series of improvements along the Holloway St. 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 the Holloway TEC based on the planning recommendations to improve multimodal access, pedestrian safety, and critical connections to greenways and trails, and also includes Access to Transit improvements along Junction Rd., connecting to transit services on Holloway Street.

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.

The proposed improvements on the Holloway corridor highlight the COD’s commitment to equitable, safe access to transit and improving reliability of bus service for GoDurham riders. This corridor is one that has experienced several fatal pedestrian crashes due in part to subpar connections to pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure. Between 2007-2020, there were 200 pedestrian and bicycle crashes reported, of which 67% involved people of color. See Figure 1.

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.

The COD will follow up to this memo with a draft Letter of Support for your consideration, which we will work with MPO staff to finalize for your signature by February 16, 2023. The COD intends to submit the application late February 2023.

Figure 1: Crash and Injury Locations

