

May 11, 2022

The Honorable Deborah Ross
U.S. House of Representatives
1208 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Ross:

On behalf of the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Transportation Organization (DCHC MPO), I am writing to indicate our commitment to be a supporting partner of the Connected Region Guide federal appropriations request being submitted by our managing partner, the Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG). The DCHC MPO is the regional organization responsible for transportation planning for the western half of the Research Triangle region of North Carolina, including Durham and Orange counties and their municipalities.

The Connected Region Guide aims to address the current needs and significant future growth of the region through a vision to improve the transportation network, link it to housing affordability strategies and cement it by a multi-partner implementation agreement. The project prioritizes improvements that support the mutually reinforcing benefits of transit, active transportation including healthy greenspace, and affordable housing, all through an equity-centered lens of long-term sustainability. Since transportation is a core function of DCHC MPO, and the MPO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) includes goals to improve equity and focus on active transportation, the DCHC MPO will be an important partner in the development and implementation of the Connected Region Guide.

The project is founded on a genuine partnership between local and regional organizations in both the public and private sectors. DCHC MPO is a committed funding partner for the Project and will work with TJCOG to determine a final contribution amount that will be committed through our organization's standard budgeting process.

Together with the other supporting partners, we are committed to ensuring the partnership achieves the minimum 20% matching funds required for a federal appropriations request.

In summary, I fully support TJCOG's efforts in providing the clear, community-inspired guidance that is necessary to sustain a commitment to funding improvements and related strategies to the regional transportation network that will bring about an effective, reliable, and equitable multimodal system. I look forward to hearing about the success of the application and participating in the project efforts.

Sincerely,

Jenn Weaver
Mayor, Town of Hillsborough
Board Chair, Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization