



TRIANGLE WEST

Transportation Planning Organization

June 17, 2025

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Sean P. Duffy
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Letter of Support – Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Supplemental Planning Grant Application for the Town of Chapel Hill

Dear Secretary Duffy,

I am writing to express our strong support for the Town of Chapel Hill's FY25 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Implementation Grant application for "A Corridor Reconnected: Multimodal Safety and Access on Fordham Boulevard."

Fordham Boulevard (US 15-501) is one of Chapel Hill's highest-risk corridors, identified as a regional priority and a High-Injury Network in our Vision Zero Action Plan. It has a record of 2 fatal and 6 serious injury crashes along the project corridor between 2018 and 2022. Furthermore, the Triangle West Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Vision Zero Action Plan specifically designates Fordham Boulevard as a Top Motorcycle Risk Location, a Top Speed Risk Location, and a Top Lane Departure Risk Location, underscoring its systemic hazards. Its current design fosters high speeds and dangerous conflict points, creating a severe barrier to safe, equitable multimodal mobility. This safety and access gap disproportionately impacts nearby underserved communities, many of whom rely on walking, biking, and transit to access essential services. Without intervention, this critical risk will only grow as the area develops.

As the metropolitan planning organization for the western part of the Research Triangle in North Carolina, Triangle West developed and adopted a regional Vision Zero Action Plan with the support of SS4A funding. We believe this project is essential because it will build upon the regional safety action plan by implementing tangible, high-impact safety infrastructure in one of the Town's most dangerous and heavily traveled corridors. It will serve as a model for corridor-scale safety transformation throughout our planning area, advancing our collective Vision Zero goals and setting a precedent for equitable, multimodal investment in high-risk locations.



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By supporting this planning effort, we move closer to a future where no loss of life on our roadways is acceptable. We respectfully request and appreciate your time in considering their proposal for SS4A implementation grant funding.

Thank you for your time and dedication to advancing safer streets across the nation.

Sincerely,

Karen Howard
Board Chair
Triangle West TPO