

January 3, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Office of the Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization, I am writing to express our strong support of GoTriangle's **Triangle Mobility Hub and SPOKE** application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program. The Triangle Mobility Hub is critical to supporting shared economic prosperity and sustainable mobility in North Carolina's Triangle Region. The new intermodal transportation facility will anchor the regional transit network and enable **Sustainable, Prompt transit connections to Opportunities for Knowledge and Employment (SPOKE)**. It will provide affordable and sustainable mobility options to residents of historically disadvantaged communities with low or no vehicle ownership, with low incomes, and who identify as Black, Indigenous, or a Person of Color that are burdened with poor air quality and limited access to everyday destinations. Without this regional priority, limited travel options will continue to hinder equitable access to opportunity across the region.

Located in Research Triangle Park (RTP), the center of the growing and vibrant Triangle Region, the Triangle Mobility Hub and SPOKE project will catalyze connections and equitable development with a focus on improving quality of life, mobility, and community connectivity. The project will support a high-quality, frequent, safe, and reliable regional transit network operated by battery-electric buses. Transportation improvements and site will be designed with a focus on sustainability and resiliency. The mobility hub will provide seamless intermodal connections between local and regional bus services, rail service, and micro-mobility. These new high-quality public transportation options will support enhanced connections to education, employment, healthcare, shopping, recreation, and affordable housing. By providing sustainable and affordable travel options, the project will reduce emissions and improve air quality.

The Triangle Mobility Hub and SPOKE project will reduce transportation disparities and improve economic mobility by providing faster, more reliable transportation options to residents of historically disadvantaged communities. The Mobility Hub and SPOKE network will connect residents to opportunities for educational achievement, workforce training, and career advancement. The project will create new direct connections to North Carolina Central University, Durham Technical Community College, and improve connections to Wake Technical Community College RTP Campus. It will also strengthen connections to businesses in and around RTP that participate in workforce training partnerships with these community anchors.

The DCHC MPO is the regional organization responsible for transportation planning for the western half of the Triangle, including the proposed site for the Triangle Mobility Hub. The DCHC MPO supports GoTriangle, and local transit agencies in our region, through coordination of local transit plans and

integration of transportation projects across jurisdictional boundaries. The project is supported by local and regional transportation plans. The project is included within the MPO's Connect 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, in addition to the county transit plans for Orange and Durham counties. If the project is awarded federal funding, DCHC MPO would work with GoTriangle and NCDOT to program those funds in the State Transportation Improvement Program. The Triangle Mobility Hub would further DCHC MPO's goals of a comprehensive and multi-modal regional transportation network.

I fully support the efforts of GoTriangle as they seek to fund the Triangle Mobility Hub and SPOKE project and will continue to support this transformative project as we work together to meet the needs of the public.

Sincerely,

Karen Howard, Board Chair  
Durham Chapel Hill Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization