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July 14, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: FY 2021 RAISE grant program
Applicant: City of Durham (North Carolina) | DUNS #: 075566695
Tracking Number: GRANT13419855

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am pleased to support the application submitted by the City of Durham for funding through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program in the amount of \$10,000,000.

The City indicates that the RAISE grant will fund the construction of the Durham Belt Line, a multi-use trail that stretches 1.75 miles and comprises 17 acres of former railroad right-of-way now owned by the City of Durham. The corridor creates an arc that connects Downtown Durham to residential and commercial areas in the central, north central, and northeastern portions of the City. The trail will create new, safe connections to the Durham Station Transportation Center, the Amtrak Station, and a growing network of bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

It is my understanding that once completed, the Belt Line will expand equitable access to jobs, housing, and open space. By providing connections to transit, encouraging development of affordable housing along the corridor, and enabling safe access to essential services, the Belt Line creates opportunities to transform underserved communities in Durham's urban core.

Improved transportation and related infrastructure are critical to economic development and growth, and I thank you for your consideration of the City of Durham's application. Please feel free to contact my Raleigh office at 919-856-4630 if you have questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,



Thom Tillis
U.S. Senator

TRT/lm

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