

DAVID PRICE

4TH DISTRICT

NORTH CAROLINA

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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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STATE AND FOREIGN OPERATIONS

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COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

CHAIRMAN, HOUSE DEMOCRACY
PARTNERSHIP

October 7, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation (USDOT)
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my support for the Durham Rail-crossing Engagement, Planning, and Innovative Revitalization (Durham REPAIR) project application for the Federal Rail Administration's (FRA) Railroad Crossing Elimination grant program. This proposed project will study opportunities for improving safety and mobility at three adjacent railroad crossings in Durham, North Carolina – the crossings at S. Plum Street, S. Driver Street, and on Ellis Road. These crossings require our immediate attention, as traffic and collision rates reach historic levels. In the past 25 years there have been nineteen crashes, causing three fatalities and nine injuries, in these historically disadvantaged neighborhoods.

Durham REPAIR will support planning, community engagement, and environmental review to define solution options, and it also includes preliminary engineering design. A key component of the Durham REPAIR project defines an equitable community engagement effort to help find solutions that are responsive to the needs of local residents and businesses in the area. Housed in a Historically Disadvantaged Community and located within two federally designated Opportunity Zones, the Durham REPAIR project study will safeguard the community from potential crashes by evaluating innovative mobility solutions to bridge the gap between the north and south sides of the tracks. It will enhance safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and the surrounding community, improve air quality through reduced emissions, and provide reliable access to businesses and community resources in east Durham.

I am proud to support this grant proposal, as it will improve the safety and quality of life for the citizens of Durham. It will invest in historically neglected communities, and it will also help to make Durham a more equitable city. Thank you for your attention to this proposal and I hope you will give the Durham REPAIR project careful consideration for funding. I look forward to continuing to work with you towards improving our nation's infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Price".

DAVID E. PRICE
Member of Congress



North Carolina General Assembly
Senate Chamber
State Legislative Building
Raleigh 27601-2808

Administrator Amit Bose
Federal Railroad Administration
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

September 30th, 2022

Dear Mr. Bose,

As a Senator for Durham County, it is my pleasure to express my support for the FY22 Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Program Grant Application for the Durham Rail-crossing Engagement, Planning And Innovative Revitalization (Durham REPAIR) Project. The Durham REPAIR project seeks to identify opportunities to improve the safety, mobility and community near three adjacent railroad crossings located in a historically disadvantaged area of Durham. These crossings located at S Plum Street, S Driver Street, and Ellis Road need updates to address increased traffic levels and related accidents. Between these three crossings, there have been 19 accidents that resulted in three deaths.

Durham REPAIR will support environmental review, planning, and community engagement to identify potential solutions, and create preliminary engineering designs for the preferred solutions. This project will include an equitable community engagement effort to ensure that the chosen solution addresses the needs of the residents and businesses in the area.

Based on my experience as not only a member of the senate transportation committee, but as a former member of the senior leadership team with GoTriangle, I am confident that Durham County along with its partners; the City of Durham, the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization, GoTriangle, and the North Carolina Department of Transportation, will be able to select a preferable and effective solution with sufficient community engagement. If you have any questions, please contact my office at (919) 733-4599 or Natalie.Murdock@ncleg.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Natalie S. Murdock".

Senator Natalie S. Murdock
NC Senate District 20



North Carolina General Assembly
House of Representatives

REPRESENTATIVE Zack Hawkins
31st DISTRICT

OFFICE ADDRESS: 1307 LEGISLATIVE BUILDING
16 W Jones Street
RALEIGH, NC 27601-1096
TELEPHONE: (919) 715-2528
(919) 715-2599 Fax
E-MAIL: zack.hawkins@ncleg.net

COMMITTEES:

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SOLUTIONS
REDISTRICTING
TRANSPORTATION

September 29, 2022

Administrator Amit Bose
Federal Railroad Administration
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: 2022 Railroad Crossing Elimination Program

Dear Administrator Bose,

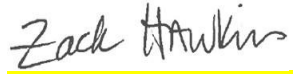
I am writing today to express our support for the FY22 Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Program Grant Application for the **Durham Rail-crossing Engagement, Planning, And Innovative Revitalization (Durham REPAIR) Project** (the "Project"). The Project will study opportunities for improving safety, mobility, and community near three adjacent railroad crossings in Durham, NC. The crossings located at S Plum Street, S Driver Street, and Ellis Road require action due to historic and anticipated traffic levels and related crash histories. Over the past 25 years, there have been 19 crashes causing three fatalities and nine injuries at these crossings, which are located in a historically disadvantaged area of Durham.

Durham REPAIR will support planning, community engagement, and environmental review to define options for solutions, and preliminary engineering design for the preferred solutions. Durham REPAIR will include an equitable community engagement effort to facilitate the selection of a preferred solution that is responsive to the needs of the residents and businesses of this area. Anticipated benefits include avoidance of pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicle crashes, as well as improved air quality from reduced idling emissions, improved emergency services response, and improved trip reliability, among other benefits.

The Project is in a Historically Disadvantaged Community and is located within two Federally designated Opportunity Zones. The Durham REPAIR study will plan for equitable transportation access by safeguarding the community from potential crashes and evaluating innovative mobility solutions to bridge the gap between the north and south sides of the tracks. Durham REPAIR will improve safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and the surrounding community, enhance quality of life for residents and visitors, and provide reliable access and connectivity to businesses and community resources in East Durham.

I, Representative Zack Hawkins as a member of the North Carolina House of Representatives representing Durham District 31 strongly recommends that FY22 funding under the RCE Program be allocated to this initiative. If you have any questions, please contact me at (919) 715-2528 or email: Zack.hawkins@ncleg.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zack Hawkins". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Representative Zack AF Hawkins

Durham – District 31



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

J. ERIC BOYETTE
SECRETARY

September 28, 2022

Administrator Amit Bose
Federal Railroad Administration
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: 2022 Railroad Crossing Elimination Program

Dear Administrator Bose:

I am writing to express the North Carolina Department of Transportation's support for Durham County's FY22 Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Program Grant Application for the **Durham Rail-crossing Engagement, Planning, And Innovative Revitalization (Durham REPAIR) Project** (the "Project"). The Project will study opportunities for improving safety, mobility, and community near three adjacent railroad crossings in Durham, NC. The crossings located at S. Plum Street, S. Driver Street, and Ellis Road require action due to historic and anticipated traffic levels and related crash histories. Over the past 25 years, there have been 19 crashes causing three fatalities and nine injuries at these crossings, which are located in a historically disadvantaged area of Durham.

Durham REPAIR will support planning, community engagement, and environmental review to define options for solutions, and preliminary engineering design for the preferred solutions. The Project will include an equitable community engagement effort to facilitate the selection of a preferred solution that is responsive to the needs of the residents and businesses of this area. Anticipated benefits include improved air quality from reduced idling emissions, emergency services response, and trip reliability, as well as the avoidance of pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicle crashes, among other benefits.

The Project is in a Historically Disadvantaged Community and is located within two Federally designated Opportunity Zones. The Durham REPAIR study will plan for equitable transportation access by safeguarding the community from potential crashes and evaluating innovative mobility solutions to bridge the gap between the north and south

Mailing Address:
NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
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RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA 27699-1501

Telephone: 919-707-2800
Fax: 919-733-9150
Customer Service: 1-877-368-4968

Location:
1 SOUTH WILMINGTON STREET
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA 27601

Website: ncdot.gov

Administrator Amit Bose

September 27, 2022

Page 2

sides of the tracks. Durham REPAIR will improve safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and the surrounding community; enhance quality of life for residents and visitors; and provide reliable access and connectivity to businesses and community resources in East Durham.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation offers our full support of the Durham REPAIR Project.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Julie White

R1309F15DE4B46B...

Julie White

Deputy Secretary for Multi-Modal Transportation

JO/cjc

cc: Joey Hopkins, Chief Operating Officer
Jason Orthner, Rail Division Director



CITY MANAGER
CITY OF DURHAM

October 3, 2022

Administrator Amit Bose
Federal Railroad Administration
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: 2022 Railroad Crossing Elimination Program

Dear Administrator Bose,

I am writing today to express the City of Durham’s support for the FY22 Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Program Grant Application for the Durham Rail-crossing Engagement, Planning, And Innovative Revitalization (Durham REPAIR) Project (the “Project”). The Project will study opportunities for improving safety while assessing potential community and mobility impacts near three adjacent railroad crossings in Durham, NC. The crossings located at S Plum Street, S Driver Street, and Ellis Road require attention due to historic and anticipated traffic levels and related crash histories. Over the past 25 years, there have been 19 crashes causing three fatalities and nine injuries at these crossings, which are located in a historically disadvantaged area of Durham.

The Project will support planning, community engagement, and environmental review to define options for solutions, and development of design concepts for the preferred solutions. The Project’s equitable community engagement effort will facilitate the selection of a preferred solution that is responsive to the needs of the residents and businesses of this area. Anticipated benefits include avoidance of pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicle crashes, as well as improved air quality from reduced idling emissions, improved emergency services response, and improved trip reliability.

The Project is in a [Historically Disadvantaged Community](#) as defined by the U.S. Department of Transportation and is located within two Federally designated Opportunity Zones. The Project will plan for equitable transportation access by safeguarding the community from potential crashes and evaluating innovative mobility solutions to bridge the gap between the north and south sides of the tracks. The Project will improve safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and the surrounding community, enhance quality of life for residents and visitors, and provide reliable access and connectivity to businesses and community resources in East Durham.

The City of Durham supports additional analysis and equitable community engagement, consistent with the City’s [Equitable Community Engagement Blueprint](#), which calls for intentional engagement with impacted communities, in particular, those historically excluded from decision-making processes, prior to making consequential decisions such as whether to close at-grade railroad crossings used by residents, businesses, public school buses, and others on a daily basis. In a presentation to the City Council on September 22, 2022, Durham County staff shared that the results of this engagement and the impacts on residents will be reviewed by City officials prior to any decision on whether to close



these crossings, a decision that ultimately rests with the City of Durham as these are City roadways. The findings of the 2014 Traffic Separation Study identified significant opposition from residents to proposed closures that must be fully considered through this process.

The City of Durham supports this application to address these important issues and ask that you support the application from Durham County to conduct this work. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Sean C. Egan, Director of Transportation, at sean.egan@durhamnc.gov or 919-560-4366 x36410.

Sincerely,



Wanda S. Page
City Manager

CC: Sean C. Egan, Director of Transportation



September 30, 2022

Administrator Amit Bose
Federal Railroad Administration
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: 2022 Railroad Crossing Elimination Program

Dear Administrator Bose:

I am writing today to express our support for the FY22 Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Program Grant Application for the **Durham Rail-crossing Engagement, Planning, And Innovative Revitalization (Durham REPAIR) Project** (the "Project"). The Project will study opportunities for improving safety, mobility, and community near three adjacent railroad crossings in Durham, NC. The crossings located at S Plum Street, S Driver Street, and Ellis Road require action due to historic and anticipated traffic levels and related crash histories. Over the past 25 years, there have been 19 crashes causing three fatalities and nine injuries at these crossings, which are in a historically disadvantaged area of Durham.

Durham REPAIR will support planning, community engagement, and environmental review to define options for solutions, and preliminary engineering design for the preferred solutions. Durham REPAIR will include an equitable community engagement effort to facilitate the selection of a preferred solution that is responsive to the needs of residents and businesses in East Durham. Anticipated benefits include avoidance of pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicle crashes, as well as improved air quality from reduced idling emissions, improved emergency services response, and improved trip reliability, among other benefits.

The Project is in a Historically Disadvantaged Community and is located within two Federally designated Opportunity Zones. The Durham REPAIR study will plan for equitable transportation access by safeguarding the community from potential crashes and evaluating innovative mobility solutions to bridge the gap between the north and south sides of the tracks. Durham REPAIR will improve safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and the surrounding community, enhance quality of life for residents and visitors, and provide reliable access and connectivity to businesses and community resources in East Durham.

GoTriangle operates regional bus and paratransit service in the Triangle region of North Carolina. GoTriangle also provides planning and administrative services for local bus service in the City of Durham, and is planning for a regional commuter rail system that would operate over these crossings. Through our transit planning efforts, partnerships, and operations, we have become keenly aware of the threat these crossings pose to safety and mobility in East Durham. Train traffic is planned to increase in the rail corridor through downtown Durham. As rapid growth continues in Durham and throughout the Triangle region, bike, pedestrian, and automobile traffic will increase near the crossings too. For these reasons, GoTriangle strongly recommends that FY22 funding under the RCE Program be allocated to this initiative. If you have any questions, please contact me at 919-485-7424 or CLattuca@gotriangle.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles E. Lattuca".

Charles E. Lattuca
President and Chief Executive Officer

October 4, 2022

Administrator Amit Bose
Federal Railroad Administration
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: 2022 RAILROAD CROSSING ELIMINATION PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION

Dear Administrator Bose,

The Durham- Chapel Hill- Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO), voted to endorse Durham County's grant application for the FY22 Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Program Grant and issue a letter of support for the grant application. Durham County's proposed FY22 RCE application will study opportunities for improving safety, mobility, and community near three (3) adjacent railroad crossings in Durham, NC. The crossings at the South Plum Street, South Driver Street, and Ellis Road intersection necessitate further study to better understand historic and anticipated traffic levels and related crash histories. Over the past 25 years, there were 19 crashes causing three (3) fatalities and nine (9) injuries at these crossings. The selected crossings are in transportation disadvantaged Census tracts according to FHWA's Justice40 analysis.

The project will support planning, community engagement, and environmental review to craft a purpose and need statement, analyze alternatives, identify environmental impacts of the proposed actions and alternatives. The project will include an equitable community engagement effort to facilitate an alternatives analysis that is responsive to impacts on affected adjacent residents and businesses. Anticipated localized benefits include avoidance of pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicle crashes, improved air quality from idling emissions reduction, better emergency services response, and improved trip reliability.

The DCHC MPO Board strongly recommends that FY22 funding under the RCE Program be allocated to this initiative. If you have any questions, please contact me at (919)560-4366 or doug.plachcinski@durhamnc.gov.

Sincerely,



Doug Plachcinski, AICP, PCP
Executive Director
Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization



TRIANGLE J COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

September 26, 2022

Administrator Amit Bose
Federal Railroad Administration
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: 2022 Railroad Crossing Elimination Program

Dear Administrator Bose,

I am writing today to express our support for the FY22 Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Program Grant Application for the **Durham Rail-crossing Engagement, Planning, And Innovative Revitalization (Durham REPAIR) Project** (the “Project”). The Project will study opportunities for improving safety, mobility, and community near three adjacent railroad crossings in Durham, NC. The crossings located at S Plum Street, S Driver Street, and Ellis Road require action due to historic and anticipated traffic levels and related crash histories. Over the past 25 years, there have been 19 crashes causing three fatalities and nine injuries at these crossings, which are located in a historically disadvantaged area of Durham.

Durham REPAIR will support planning, community engagement, and environmental review to define options for solutions, and preliminary engineering design for the preferred solutions. Durham REPAIR will include an equitable community engagement effort to facilitate the selection of a preferred solution that is responsive to the needs of the residents and businesses of this area. Anticipated benefits include avoidance of pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicle crashes, as well as improved air quality from reduced idling emissions, improved emergency services response, and improved trip reliability, among other benefits.

The Project is in a Historically Disadvantaged Community and is located within two Federally designated Opportunity Zones. The Durham REPAIR study will plan for equitable transportation access by safeguarding the community from potential crashes and evaluating innovative mobility solutions to bridge the gap between the north and south sides of the tracks. Durham REPAIR will improve safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and the surrounding community, enhance quality of life for residents and visitors, and provide reliable access and connectivity to businesses and community resources in East Durham.

Triangle J Council of Governments recommends that FY22 funding under the RCE Program be allocated to this initiative. If you have any questions, please contact me at 919-558-9395 or lworsley@tjcog.org.

Sincerely,

Lee Worsley
Executive Director

September 30, 2022

Administrator Amit Bose
Federal Railroad Administration
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: 2022 Railroad Crossing Elimination Program

Dear Administrator Bose,

On behalf of the Regional Transportation Alliance, the voice of the regional business community on transportation in North Carolina's Research Triangle area, I am writing to express our support for the FY'22 Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Program Grant Application for the Durham Rail-crossing Engagement, Planning, And Innovative Revitalization (Durham REPAIR) Project (the "Project").

The Project will study opportunities for improving safety, mobility, and community near three adjacent railroad crossings in Durham, served by passenger and freight traffic along the North Carolina Railroad Company corridor. The crossings located at S. Plum Street, S. Driver Street, and Ellis Road require action due to historic and anticipated traffic levels and related crash histories.

Over the past 25 years, there have been 19 crashes causing three fatalities and nine injuries at these crossings, which are located in a historically disadvantaged area of Durham. Durham REPAIR will support planning, community engagement, and environmental review to define options for solutions, and preliminary engineering design for the preferred solutions, within two Federally designated Opportunity Zones.

In addition, Durham REPAIR will include an equitable community engagement effort to facilitate the selection of a preferred solution that is responsive to the needs of the residents and businesses of this area. Anticipated benefits include avoidance of pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicle crashes, as well as improved air quality from reduced idling emissions, improved emergency services response, and enhanced trip reliability.

For these and other reasons, the Regional Transportation Alliance business coalition strongly recommends that FY'22 funding under the RCE Program be allocated to this initiative. Thank you for your consideration of the Project. If you have any questions, please contact me at joe@letsgetmoving.org or 919.664.7065.

Sincerely,



Joe Milazzo II, PE
Executive Director,
Regional Transportation Alliance



Office of the President

September 23, 2022

Administrator Amit Bose
Federal Railroad Administration
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: 2022 Railroad Crossing Elimination Program

Dear Administrator Bose,

I am writing today to express our support for the FY22 Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Program Grant Application for the **Durham Rail-crossing Engagement, Planning, And Innovative Revitalization (Durham REPAIR) Project** (the “Project”). The Project will study opportunities for improving safety, mobility, and community near three adjacent railroad crossings in Durham, NC. The crossings located at S Plum Street, S Driver Street, and Ellis Road require action due to historic and anticipated traffic levels and related crash histories. Over the past 25 years, there have been 19 crashes causing three fatalities and nine injuries at these crossings, which are located in a historically disadvantaged area of Durham.

Durham REPAIR will support planning, community engagement, and environmental review to define options for solutions, and preliminary engineering design for the preferred solutions. Durham REPAIR will include an equitable community engagement effort to facilitate the selection of a preferred solution that is responsive to the needs of the residents and businesses of this area. Anticipated benefits include avoidance of pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicle crashes, as well as improved air quality from reduced idling emissions, improved emergency services response, and improved trip reliability, among other benefits.

The Project is in a Historically Disadvantaged Community and is located within two Federally designated Opportunity Zones. The Durham REPAIR study will plan for equitable transportation access by safeguarding the community from potential crashes and evaluating innovative mobility solutions to bridge the gap between the north and south sides of the tracks. Durham REPAIR will improve safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and the surrounding community, enhance quality of life for residents and visitors, and provide reliable access and connectivity to businesses and community resources in East Durham.

Durham Technical Community College is particularly concerned about these railroad crossings, as all three of them are within 1.4 miles or less from the College’s Main Campus on East Lawson Street between South Briggs Avenue and Bacon Street. The Project also puts the College at or near the center of these three railroad crossings. For staff and students alike, delays, accidents, and road closures affect individuals’ ability to arrive at work or class in a safe and timely manner.



As anticipated expansions to Main Campus come to fruition, safety and accessibility are key components in our planning and we expect increases in enrollment, employment, and campus events. The Project is aligned with the College's strategic plan that lifts up institutional excellence in the form of a safe, welcoming, and accessible campus and environment.

Durham Technical Community College strongly recommends that FY22 funding under the RCE Program be allocated to this initiative. If you have any questions, please contact me at (919) 536-7200 ext. 6003 or buxtonj@durhamtech.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J.B. Buxton'.

J.B. Buxton
President, Durham Technical Community College



Pascal Mubenga, Ph. D.
Superintendent

October 2, 2022

To: Administrator Amit Bose
Federal Railroad Administration
United States Department of Transportation

Re: 2022 Railroad Crossing Elimination Program

Dear Administrator Bose,

Durham Public Schools is pleased to write a letter of support for the FY22 Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Program Grant Application for the **Durham Rail-crossing Engagement, Planning, And Innovative Revitalization (Durham REPAIR) Project** (the "Project"). The Project is located in a historically disadvantaged community and is within two Federally Designated Opportunity Zones and will study opportunities for improving safety, mobility, and community near three adjacent railroad crossings in Durham, NC. The crossings located at S Plum Street, S Driver Street, and Ellis Road require action due to historic and anticipated traffic levels and related crash histories.

The Project will engage the community residents, businesses and Durham Public Schools to facilitate the selection of a preferred solution that is responsive to the needs of the entire community. Anticipated benefits of Durham REPAIR, include avoidance of pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicle crashes, as well as improved air quality from reduced idling, improved emergency services response, and improved trip reliability, among others.

Durham Public Schools strongly recommends that FY22 funding under the RCE Program be allocated to this initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pascal Mubenga". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

Pascal Mubenga, Ph.D.
Superintendent, Durham Public Schools