

August 27, 2024

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

Subject: 2024 CRISI Grant Application  
Carolinian & Piedmont Passenger & Freight Improvements (CAPFFI)

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

**On behalf of the Regional Transportation Alliance (RTA), the voice of the regional business community on transportation in the Research Triangle region of North Carolina, I am writing to express our strong support for the North Carolina Railroad Company (NCRR) application for \$105 million in Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant funding in 2024.**

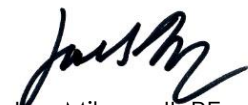
The proposed improvements will be implemented along the NCRR H line / Norfolk Southern Railway (NSR) NC line between Greensboro and Raleigh. They include two new sidings, a 4.5 mile extension of an existing siding, a new grade separation with a major arterial, and other enhancements.

The three North Carolina funding partners: NCRR, NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and NSR, have committed a total of \$65 million in matching funds to support this proposed \$170 railway improvement program, which will improve safety, operations, reliability, and supply chain resiliency, while supporting future higher speed intercity rail service expansion along the Southeast Corridor.

RTA has more than 150 members, including more than 25 member chambers of commerce across 13 counties in central, southern, and eastern North Carolina. Our regional leadership team consists of prominent, engaged companies in a variety of economic sectors including life sciences, technology, banking, utilities, real estate, professional services, and more, as well as major research universities and transportation partners. These companies and many others will benefit directly or indirectly from the proposed rail mobility and safety improvements along this vital corridor segment which serves four of the seven largest cities in the state (Raleigh, Greensboro, Durham, Cary).

We fully support the North Carolina Railroad Company's CRISI grant application and urge your full consideration for funding. Please call me at 919.664.7065 or [joe@letsgetmoving.org](mailto:joe@letsgetmoving.org) with questions.

Sincerely,



Joe Milazzo II, PE  
Executive Director  
Regional Transportation Alliance