

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 22, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We write to express support for the *Raleigh to Richmond (R2R) Corridor Infrastructure Engineering & Safety Program* application for the Federal Rail Administration's Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant program. This is a joint venture between the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA), spanning eight counties across the two states, and benefiting the entire region.

This grant would advance the development of the federally designated Southeast Corridor by providing preliminary engineering for rehabilitation and construction of the S-Line, a critical missing link in the Southeast network. Along with preliminary engineering design for the approximately 162 miles of S-Line from Raleigh to Richmond, the *R2R Corridor Infrastructure Engineering & Safety Program* would address some immediate safety concerns through the construction of an important grade separation on the active S-Line in North Carolina's fast-growing Wake County.

Ultimately, completion of the R2R Corridor will lead to economic development, job growth, and improved transportation equity through enhanced mobility opportunities to currently under-served communities in both states. It would support additional service frequencies and reduce passenger rail travel times by over an hour between Raleigh and Richmond, offering a more efficient and environmentally friendly alternative to travel than vehicular use on interstates I-85 and I-95 once the program is fully constructed.

We appreciate the years of cooperation between the Federal Railroad Administration and our two states to advance this critical project. This grant would build upon previous federal and state investments, including North Carolina and Virginia's respective right-of-way acquisitions, as a logical next step to support planning efforts that have been established through the Virginia-North Carolina Interstate High Speed Rail Compact and the Southeast Corridor Commission.

Thank you for your consideration of the *R2R Corridor Infrastructure Engineering & Safety Program*, and we urge you to give this application all due consideration.

Sincerely,



David E. Price
Member of Congress



Richard Burr
United States Senator



Thom Tillis
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



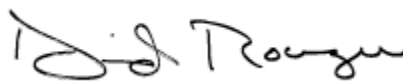
Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



David Rouzer
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams, Ph. D.
Member of Congress



A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress



Abigail D. Spanberger
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress