



Ms. Felicia James  
Associate Administrator for Planning and Environment  
U.S. Department of Transportation – Federal Transit Administration  
East Building  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Chapel Hill Alliance for a Livable Town  
August 1, 2023

Dear Sirs:

Our organization, Chapel Hill Alliance for a Livable Town, strongly supports the North-South Bus Rapid Transit project (NSBRT). We believe that excellent transit is a key ingredient of a livable community. If funded this transit system will provide 8.2 miles of transit service along one of Chapel Hill's most travelled corridors from Eubanks Road to Southern Village on Route 86.

Our Town is growing, and the University of North Carolina is growing along with an influx of residences housing students along with many new businesses in downtown Chapel Hill. Securing the needed funding for the NSBRT is the next transit improvement needed to accommodate the needs of our growing college town.

Route 86 is a critical transportation corridor and entryway to Chapel Hill, the home to one of the state's largest healthcare systems and the country's first state university - the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. We were the earliest town in North Carolina to institute a free bus service, and as a result NC 86 is already a major road corridor carrying hundreds of students from their residences along NC 86 to the campus on our bus service as well as many, many UNC and UNC Hospital employees to work.

Frequent, reliable service on a dedicated transit guideway can improve travel times, relieves pressure on non-express service, increases transit capacity in the Town's highest ridership corridor, and helps Chapel Hill Transit continue to meet the Town's growing demand for high-quality public transportation service. An integrated multiuse path enhances bicycle and pedestrian options along the NSBRT corridor, together with planned new greenway improvements.

NSBRT will not only enhance local transit options in Chapel Hill but will contribute to a growing network of regional public transportation connections. Work has begun on US 15-501 improvements to the second most populous city, Durham, in the Greater Research Triangle Metro area. Chapel Hill, Carrboro and UNC together share costs and run a coordinated transit system.

Chapel Hill has done extensive planning to prepare for this mode of transit, including holding several workshops and engaging the parties likely to benefit from this improved service, as well as surrounding neighborhoods. In addition, the Town is rezoning for higher densities along the NSBRT corridor. It is our opinion that the NSBRT system can be justified without taking those additional zoning steps.

We find the Bus Rapid Transit mode of transportation to be the best "bang for the buck" in transit. Our community is proud of the work we have done to prepare for this important project, and we request that you give the NSBRT a rating that will ensure that this project is funded.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

David Adams, Linda Brown, Alex Cabanes, Deborah Finn, Tom Henkel, Charles Humble, Fred Lampe, Julie McClintock, Sherrie Stockton, and Gordon Whitaker for  
Chapel Hill Alliance for a Livable Town

PDF copy to Matt Cecil [mcecil@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:mcecil@townofchapelhill.org)  
Manager Chris Blue [cblue@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:cblue@townofchapelhill.org)