

The Honorable Veronica Vanterpool
Federal Transit Administration
Office of the Administrator
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Vanterpool:

On behalf of Durham Chapel Hill Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization, I am writing to express our strong support of GoTriangle's **Triangle Mobility Hub and SPOKE** application to the Low or No Emission Vehicle and Bus and Bus Facilities grant programs. The Triangle Mobility Hub is a new sustainable multi-modal transportation center equipped with on-route charging infrastructure that will optimize utilization of ten new battery-electric buses included in the project. The application is critical to supporting shared economic prosperity and sustainable mobility in North Carolina's quickly growing Research Triangle Region.

The new multi-modal transportation center will anchor the regional transit network and enable **Sustainable, Prompt transit connections to Opportunities for Knowledge and Employment (SPOKE)** supported by ten new battery-electric buses. It will provide affordable and sustainable mobility options to residents of historically disadvantaged communities with low or no vehicle ownership, with low incomes, and who identify as Black, Indigenous, or a Person of Color who is burdened with poor air quality and limited access to everyday destinations. The ten new battery-electric buses will promote increased access while reducing emissions and noise pollution within historically disadvantaged communities.

This new facility will save passengers time and reduce emissions by decreasing the number of cars traveling on Interstate 40 through Research Triangle Park, the busiest stretch of highway in North Carolina. It will support faster, more frequent transit by providing a safe, convenient place to transfer seamlessly between travel options and by providing a central, on-route location to quickly charge battery-electric buses and return them to service. The battery-electric buses will provide crucial first- and last-mile connections, supporting access to opportunity and reducing transportation disparities.

As a new gateway into Research Triangle Park, the economic engine of the region, the Triangle Mobility Hub will anchor a future mixed-use, transit-oriented district, providing connections to retail, housing and employment. The project will catalyze economic development and strengthen connections to workforce training partnerships among community colleges, universities and employers, driving North Carolina's thriving research economy. By using an adopted joint vehicle specification and an established joint procurement, the application will sustain growth in the Nation's battery-electric bus manufacturers and supply chain and ensure efficient use of limited resources to support electrification.

The DCHC MPO is the regional organization responsible for transportation planning for the western half of the Triangle, including the proposed site for the Triangle Mobility Hub. The DCHC MPO supports GoTriangle, and local transit agencies in our region, through coordination of local transit plans and integration of transportation projects across jurisdictional boundaries. The project is supported by local and regional transportation plans. The project is included within the MPO's Connect 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, in addition to the county transit plans for Orange and Durham counties. If the project is awarded federal funding, DCHC MPO would work with GoTriangle and NCDOT to program those funds in the State Transportation Improvement Program. The Triangle Mobility Hub would further DCHC MPO's goals of a comprehensive and multi-modal regional transportation network.

Once completed, the Triangle Mobility Hub and SPOKE project will offer sustainable and affordable transportation options for the region. I fully support GoTriangle's application and will continue to support this transformative project as we work together to meet the needs of the public.

Sincerely,

Karen Howard, Board Chair
Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro, Metropolitan Planning Organization