October 20, 2020

The Honorable K. Jane Williams
Acting Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Acting Administrator Williams:

The Town of Apex is writing in support of the **S-Line Passenger Rail TOD Planning** application for the Federal Transit Administration's fiscal year 2020 Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Planning grant program.

A comprehensive effort to facilitate TOD planning along the S-Line rail corridor in North Carolina will help communities integrate land use, economic development, and transportation connectivity as new passenger rail services develop. The portion of the S-Line from Sanford to Ridgway, NC will strengthen connections between Lee, Wake, Vance and Warren Counties, urban economic centers and the Northeast Corridor. It also builds on the recently awarded Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to acquire the S-Line corridor.

TOD planning will enhance economic development, maximize ridership, improve multimodal connectivity, and increase access to opportunities and services for our residents.  NCDOT has worked closely with our community to understand the potential benefits and impacts that passenger rail service will have.  We appreciate the partnership we have with NCDOT on this project and fully support their efforts to seek TOD planning funds through this grant opportunity. Furthermore, given the tremendous benefits anticipated for our community, we are happy to commit $40,000 in local funding to support this application.

The value of proactive planning cannot be understated given the regional and transformative nature of the S-Line project.  This is a wonderful opportunity to identify and plan for infrastructure needs and foster long-term economic impact for the rural and urban areas of North Carolina which the S-Line will serve.

Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

*Drew Havens*

Drew Havens
Town Manager