

July 31, 2023

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

RE: Support for the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Area Planning Organization's Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Discretionary Grant Application

Dear Mr. Buttigieg,

We are issuing this letter in support of the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WMPO) and their application for funding under the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Discretionary Grant Program, to develop a comprehensive surface transportation resilience improvement plan for the Wilmington, NC metropolitan region.

As the regional Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Greater Wilmington, North Carolina metropolitan area, the WMPO is highly qualified to lead the development of a resilience improvement plan as they operate on a regional scale to provide multimodal transportation network planning and technical service support to their member jurisdictions and planning partners. The WMPO also works to identify projects and funding sources to grow and improve the transportation network within their planning area while facilitating regional collaboration in the best interest of the public. Public safety and equity are critical components of the work the WMPO undertakes and both topics are at the forefront of their planning initiatives. Furthermore, the WMPO has a history of involvement in regional resilience initiatives through collaboration on university studies, staff publications, and inclusion of resiliency topics in past metropolitan transportation plans.

In the Town of Carolina Beach, we coordinate closely with the WMPO in areas such as traffic impact studies, bike and pedestrian planning, and technical review processes.

In conclusion, the Town of Carolina Beach fully supports the WMPO as they seek federal funding under the PROTECT program to develop a surface transportation resilience improvement plan that would include our jurisdiction, and that will aim to reduce negative impacts to our transportation network and improve public safety related to natural hazard events such as flooding. We encourage you to look favorably on their application and thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

Mayor Albert L. Barbee  
Town of Carolina Beach