



The Honorable Sean Duffy
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: FY2026 SS4A Grant Application – Safe Streets for Hendersonville: 7th Avenue Safety Implementation

Dear Secretary Duffy:

On behalf of Carolina Village, we are pleased to offer our strong support for the City of Hendersonville’s FY2026 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant application titled “Safe Streets for Hendersonville: 7th Avenue Safety Implementation.”

Since opening in 1974, Carolina Village has proudly served Henderson County and Western North Carolina residents as Hendersonville’s only Type-A Life Care Continuing Care Retirement Community/Life Plan Community. Founded as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Carolina Village celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2025 and continues to provide seniors with the full continuum of care — from independent living to assisted living and skilled nursing — across its energetic 98-acre campus.

Currently, Carolina Village is home to approximately 550 residents and employs 390 staff members. During its most recent and largest expansion, completed in 2019, Carolina Village welcomed 160 residents into 54 “Clear Creek” cottages and 36 “Smoky Mountain” apartments. In 2023, our fully renovated Medical Center reopened and now provides skilled nursing and rehabilitation services to both residents and members of the broader community.

Carolina Village values initiatives that improve safety, accessibility, and connectivity throughout our community. The proposed improvements along 7th Avenue will enhance bicycle, pedestrian, and vehicular infrastructure while strengthening connections between the 7th Avenue District, the Oklawaha Greenway, and surrounding destinations throughout Hendersonville.

These improvements are especially important for residents of all ages and abilities, including older adults who benefit from safer pedestrian crossings, improved walkability, and expanded opportunities for recreation, wellness, and community engagement.

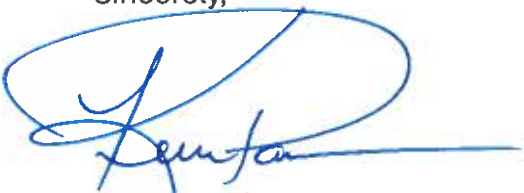
Improved accessibility and transportation connections support not only our residents and staff, but also family members, visitors, healthcare providers, and community partners who travel throughout the area daily.

We believe this project aligns closely with the goals of the Safe Streets and Roads for All program by creating a safer transportation environment, improving quality of life, supporting economic vitality, and strengthening long-term community resilience.

Carolina Village appreciates the collaborative efforts of the City of Hendersonville, the French Broad River MPO, and NCDOT in advancing this important initiative. We respectfully encourage the U.S. Department of Transportation to support this application for SS4A funding.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Parries', with a large, sweeping flourish above the name.

Kevin Parries
Carolina Village