



Levine College of Health Sciences

Office of the Provost

Stegall Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

220 N Camden Rd

May 11, 2026

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: 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Safety Implementation***

Dear Secretary Duffy:

Wingate University, which has a campus in Hendersonville NC, strongly supports the SS4A grant application “Safe Streets for Hendersonville: 7th Avenue Safety Implementation,” which is the result of a collaboration between the City of Hendersonville, the French Broad River MPO, and NCDOT.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Safety Implementation project will improve safety for all roadway users along a historic downtown corridor; provide a comfortable and welcoming public realm for families, individuals, and visitors; act as a catalyst for tourism and economic development; improve resilience to flooding events; and create improved connections to multiple major regional trails.

By supporting this effort, USDOT can showcase a project that aligns closely with the Trump Administration's objectives, including:

- Creating a safer local transportation system,
- Increasing quality of life for local families and individuals, and visitors,
- Providing improved accessible, affordable, and connected transportation options while maintaining vehicular roadway capacity,
- Creating local jobs and supporting local businesses, increasing tourism, and promoting economic opportunity

In summary, the Safe Streets for Hendersonville: 7th Avenue Safety Implementation project will act as an engine—improving safety, integrating transportation and recreation options, and enhancing economic development for small town Hendersonville.

Thank you for considering our application for SS4A Program funding.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Friel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K" and a long, sweeping underline.

Karen Friel, PT DHS  
Vice-Provost  
Dean, Levine College of Health Sciences  
Wingate University