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FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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

RE: FY2026 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Application – Safe Streets for Hendersonville: 7th Avenue Safety Implementation

Dear Secretary Duffy:

On behalf of the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (FBRMPO), I am writing to express our strong support for the City of Hendersonville’s FY2026 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant application for the “Safe Streets for Hendersonville: 7th Avenue Safety Implementation” project.

This project represents a collaborative effort between the City of Hendersonville, the French Broad River MPO, and the North Carolina Department of Transportation to improve safety, accessibility, resilience, and economic vitality along one of Hendersonville’s most important historic corridors.

The proposed improvements along 7th Avenue will create a safer and more comfortable transportation environment for all roadway users while maintaining the corridor’s critical role in the local transportation network. The project will support safer travel for drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists, families, older adults, and visitors while strengthening connections between downtown Hendersonville, nearby neighborhoods, and major regional trail facilities.

In addition to its transportation benefits, the project will support broader community and economic goals by:

- Improving roadway safety and reducing the potential for serious crashes,
- Enhancing quality of life and accessibility for residents and visitors,
- Supporting local businesses, tourism, and economic development opportunities,
- Improving multimodal connectivity while maintaining vehicular access and mobility, and

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- Incorporating infrastructure improvements that increase resilience to flooding and extreme weather events.

The FBRMPO strongly believes this project reflects the goals of the SS4A program and demonstrates how transportation investments can improve safety while supporting economic opportunity and community development in small and mid-sized communities.

Thank you for your consideration of this important application and for your continued support of safer transportation systems across the nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tristan Winkler', written in a cursive style.

Tristan Winkler
Director
French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization