

Letters of Support



METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

JOHN COOPER
MAYOR

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
METROPOLITAN COURTHOUSE
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37201
PHONE: (615) 862-6000
EMAIL: mayor@nashville.gov

June 30, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: **We Are Nolensville Pike
2023 SS4A Grant Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Nolensville Pike is a major northbound-southbound arterial roadway on the Vision Zero High Injury Network (HIN) connecting south Nashville to downtown. It is known as Nashville's "international corridor," given the presence of many vibrant immigrant communities. Dozens of international businesses line the Pike, acting as community social spaces, economic drivers, and employment centers. The sights and smells of the markets, restaurants, food trucks, coffee shops, and bakeries consistently draw in customers from all over the region.

The design of Nolensville Pike is not as welcoming as the community it serves. The corridor is auto oriented with wide lanes, high speeds (posted speed limit of 40 mph), and narrow sidewalks and bike lanes, making walking or biking an unpleasant and dangerous experience. The corridor carries over 26,000 vehicles daily. Since 2014, 816 crashes have been reported, with 68 involving a pedestrian or bicyclist. Fifty-nine of the total crashes resulted in a fatality or serious injury, of which 40% involved someone walking or using a wheelchair. Sadly, 1 in 5 crashes involving a pedestrian resulted in the person dying. These numbers are considerably higher than the averages across Nashville. This is especially concerning given the high transit ridership along Nolensville Pike considering 60% of fatal and serious injury pedestrian crashes in Nashville happen within 500 feet of a high-frequency transit stop.

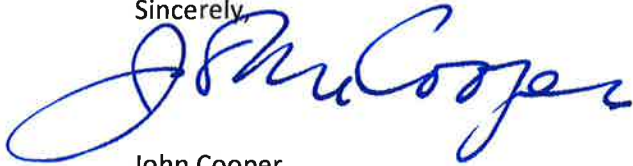
These resources will be used to proactively construct safety improvements for those walking, bicycling, or using transit along Nolensville Pike between McCall Street and Haywood Lane, a total of 2.5 miles. Improvements are based on the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Proven Safety Countermeasures, which have been shown to improve safety.

These will include, but are not limited to:

- building safe sidewalk connections where they are currently missing and/or are in need of repair;
- constructing additional street lighting and pedestrian-scale lighting to improve visibility during dark and low-light conditions;
- constructing safer intersections and crossings, including adding high visibility crosswalks, adding pedestrian hybrid beacons at strategic locations, adjusting signal timings to include leading pedestrian intervals, and constructing bulb-out intersection features; and
- enhancing bus stop designs to ensure safe access. These plans position Nashville to continually progress the corridor towards the ultimate long-term vision.

In addition to the safety improvements described above, NDOT is also requesting funding this year for a demonstration project along one of Nashville's "Pikes." This project will consist of a series of 6 signalized intersections and 60 emergency response vehicles to be fitted with EVP equipment, meaning the traffic signal will change to give a responding emergency vehicle priority. The pilot project will allow NDOT and its partners to evaluate the effectiveness of this type of system in reducing response times along critical corridors in the city. I am pleased to provide this letter of support for funding through the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Grant program.

Sincerely,



John Cooper
Mayor



**STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE
SUITE 700, JAMES K. POLK BUILDING
505 DEADERICK STREET
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-1402
(615) 741-2848

BUTCH ELEY
DEPUTY GOVERNOR &
COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORTATION

BILL LEE
GOVERNOR

July 5, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: We Are Nolensville Pike, 2023 SS4A Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for Metro Nashville's Nolensville Pike safety improvements project for funding through the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Grant program.

Nolensville Pike (SR-11/US-31A/US-41A) is a major northbound-southbound arterial roadway connecting downtown Nashville to suburban areas in Davidson County. It is known as Nashville's "international corridor," given the nexus of many vibrant immigrant communities. Dozens of international businesses line the Pike, acting as community social spaces, economic drivers, and employment centers. The sights and smells of the markets, restaurants, food trucks, coffee shops, and bakeries consistently draw in customers from all over the region. While a welcoming community, the design of Nolensville Pike is not for pedestrians, cyclists, users of transit, and other vulnerable roadway users. The corridor has intermittent and narrow sidewalks and bike lanes, making walking or biking unpleasant and dangerous. The corridor carries over 26,000 vehicles daily and since 2014 there have been 816 reported crashes along the corridor, with 68 involving a pedestrian or bicyclist. Fifty-nine (59) of the total crashes resulted in a fatality or serious injury, of which 40% involved someone walking or using a wheelchair. Sadly, 1 in 5 crashes involving a pedestrian resulted in the person dying. These numbers are considerably higher than the averages across Nashville.

Funding from the SS4A grant for this project will be used to proactively construct safety improvements for those walking, bicycling, or using transit along Nolensville Pike between McCall Street and Haywood Lane, a total of 2.5 miles. In addition to these safety improvements, NDOT's application also consists of a demonstration project along one of Nashville's "Pikes" that would consist of a series of 6 signalized intersections and 60 emergency response vehicles to be fitted with EVP equipment, meaning the traffic signal will change to give a responding emergency vehicle priority. The pilot project will allow NDOT and its partners to evaluate the effectiveness of this type of system in reducing response times along critical corridors in the city.

I hope you will consider the far-reaching benefits for safety, mobility, and equity in this proposal. Should you or your staff have any questions relative to TDOT's involvement or support of this proposal, please contact TDOT's Assistant Bureau Chief, Dan Pallme, at Daniel.Pallme@tn.gov or (615) 741-4031.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Howard H. Eley".

Howard H. Eley
Commissioner of Transportation



METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

Member of Metro Council

Colby Sledge Councilmember, District 17

June 30, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: **We Are Nolensville Pike
2023 SS4A Grant Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

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The design of Nolensville Pike is not as welcoming as the community it serves. The corridor is auto oriented with wide lanes, high speeds (posted speed limit of 40 mph), and narrow sidewalks and bike lanes, making walking or biking an unpleasant and dangerous experience. The corridor carries over 26,000 vehicles daily. Since 2014, 816 crashes have been reported, with 68 involving a pedestrian or bicyclist. Fifty-nine of the total crashes resulted in a fatality or serious injury, of which 40% involved someone walking or using a wheelchair. Sadly, 1 in 5 crashes involving a pedestrian resulted in the person dying. These numbers are considerably higher than the averages across Nashville. This is especially concerning given the high transit ridership along Nolensville Pike considering 60% of fatal and serious injury pedestrian crashes in Nashville happen within 500 feet of a high-frequency transit stop.

These resources will be used to proactively construct safety improvements for those walking, bicycling, or using transit along Nolensville Pike between McCall Street and Haywood Lane, a total of 2.5 miles. Improvements are based on the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Proven Safety Countermeasures, which have been shown to improve safety.

These will include, but are not limited to:

- building safe sidewalk connections where they are currently missing and/or are in need of repair;
- constructing additional street lighting and pedestrian-scale lighting to improve visibility during dark and low-light conditions;

- constructing safer intersections and crossings, including adding high visibility crosswalks, adding pedestrian hybrid beacons at strategic locations, adjusting signal timings to include leading pedestrian intervals, and constructing bulb-out intersection features; and
- enhancing bus stop designs to ensure safe access. These plans position Nashville to continually progress the corridor towards the ultimate long-term vision.

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Sincerely,



Colby Sledge
Councilmember, District 17



METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

Member of Metro Council

JEFF SYRACUSE

Metro Councilmember, District 15
222 Graeme Drive, Nashville, TN 37214
615-886-9906

June 30, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: **We Are Nolensville Pike
2023 SS4A Grant Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

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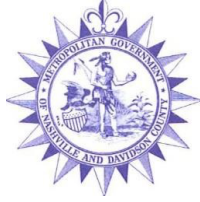
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Sincerely,



Jeff Syracuse
Councilmember, District 15



METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

Ginny Welsch, Member of Council, District 16

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: **We Are Nolensville Pike
2023 SS4A Grant Application**

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Sincerely,



615-432-1316

ginny.welsch@nashville.gov

One Public Square, Suite 204, Nashville, Tennessee 37201
615-862-6780



METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

Member of Metro Council

Zach Young Councilmember, District 10

June 30, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: **We Are Nolensville Pike
2023 SS4A Grant Application**

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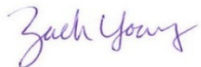
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Sincerely,



Zach Young

Councilmember, District 10



**METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT
OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY**

Planning Department
Metro Office Building
800 Second Avenue South
Nashville, Tennessee 37201

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: **We Are Nolensville Pike**
2023 SS4A Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lucy Alden Kempf". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

Lucy Kempf
Executive Director



June 30, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: SS4A Planning and Demonstration Grant Application - Nashville, TN

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am pleased to offer this letter of support for the Nashville Department of Transportation's (NDOT) Safe Streets for All (SS4A) application. NDOT's proposal to improve safety along Nolensville Pike will improve walkability, bikeability, and provide safer access to transit along one of the most dangerous corridors in the City.

GNRC is an association of local governments that convenes local and state leaders for the purposes of planning and programming state and federal investments into a range of social services and public infrastructure projects. GNRC serves as administrator of the Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and staff to its Transportation Policy Board which represents the seven county Nashville metropolitan planning area which includes the Tennessee counties of Davidson, Maury, Robertson, Rutherford, Sumner, Williamson, and Wilson.

Nolensville Pike is a major northbound-southbound arterial roadway connecting downtown Nashville to suburban areas in Davidson County. It is in the top 5% of crash hotspots in the region for both motorized and non-motorized users. The construction of new sidewalks, safety improvements at intersections, and safety improvements at transit stops along the corridor will ensure safe access for a community that depends on safe and efficient transit service and walking and biking facilities.

The project will be designed to accommodate all users and ensure safe access and is a part of the Metro Nashville-Davidson County's Vision Zero Action Plan. It will also advance the adopted Regional Transportation Plan by furthering the goal to improve safety for the traveling public. GNRC supports Metro Nashville's commitment to reducing traffic fatalities and providing safe access for all users along the Nolensville Pike corridor.

Thank you for your consideration of the NDOT's grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'MS', is written over the printed name.

Michael Skipper
Executive Director

July 3, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, D.C. 20590



Re: **We Are Nolensville Pike**
2023 SS4A Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Like too many cities, 2023 was the deadliest year on record for Nashville pedestrians. The city's pedestrian fatality rate is double the national average, with most fatalities occurring on our arterial pikes. Nashville ranks 24th nationally in traffic deaths per capita, making it one of the most dangerous places in the country to navigate. Characterized by high speeds and multiple lanes, the pikes are the city's most dangerous roads. By extension, Nolensville Pike is one of the most dangerous of the city's deadly pikes.

Since 2014, 816 crashes have been reported on Nolensville, with 68 involving a pedestrian or bicyclist. Fifty-nine of the total crashes resulted in a fatality or serious injury, of which 40% involved someone walking or using a wheelchair. Sadly, one in five crashes involving a pedestrian resulted in the person dying. These numbers are considerably higher than the averages across Nashville. This is especially concerning given the high transit ridership along Nolensville Pike. Sixty percent of fatal and serious injury pedestrian crashes in Nashville happen within 500 feet of a high-frequency transit stop. Investing in Nolensville Pike is an opportunity to advance safety while prioritizing equity and multimodal transportation. As advocates for safe streets for all, Walk Bike Nashville strongly supports NDOT's SS4A grant application for Nolensville Pike.

As Walk Bike Nashville's representative on the NDOT Vision Zero Advisory Committee, I've seen the department's dedication to eliminating traffic fatalities firsthand. The department is moving swiftly in the first implementation year of our local Vision Zero plan. Metro Nashville allocated an additional \$12 million to Vision Zero this budget cycle, proof of local support for this effort. That said, federal dollars are needed to accelerate this work. Nolensville Pike is the logical beneficiary of federal funding. Its high transit ridership, high number of fatalities, and large immigrant population make it the right candidate for SS4A funding. Walk Bike Nashville strongly supports NDOT's application and looks forward to working with the department to advance transportation justice and make Nolensville Pike a safer place for all users.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Wesley Smith".

J. Wesley Smith

Policy and Government Relations Manager



A Service of Nashville MTA

430 Myatt Drive
Nashville, TN 37115
WeGoTransit.com
615-862-5969

John Cooper
Mayor

Gail Carr Williams
Chair

Janet Miller
Vice Chair

Jessica Dauphin
Member

Walter Searcy, III
Member

Vacant
Member

Stephen G. Bland
Chief Executive Officer

Andy Burke
Chief Operating Officer

Renuka Christoph
Chief Communications Officer

Vince Malone
Chief of Staff & Administration

Nick Oldham
Chief Safety & Security Officer

Edward W. Oliphant
Chief Financial Officer

Vacant
Chief Development Officer

July 3, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: **We Are Nolensville Pike 2023 SS4A Grant Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of WeGo Public Transit (WeGo), the public transportation operator in Nashville and Davidson County, TN, I am pleased to provide this letter supporting the Nashville Department of Transportation and Multimodal Infrastructure's (NDOT) application for funding through the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Grant program.

Nolensville Pike is a major northbound-southbound arterial roadway on the Vision Zero High Injury Network (HIN) connecting south Nashville to downtown. It is known as Nashville's "international corridor," given the presence of many vibrant immigrant communities. Dozens of international businesses line the Pike, acting as community social spaces, economic drivers, and employment centers. The sights and smells of the markets, restaurants, food trucks, coffee shops, and bakeries consistently draw in customers from all over the region. The Nolensville Pike corridor is also a key WeGo transit route operating frequent service throughout the day. WeGo's Route 52 that serves Nolensville Pike carries approximately 70,000 riders a month with over 95% of riders walking to the bus stops and almost 70% of them being minorities, most of them connecting to places of employment on the corridor and across the system.

The design of Nolensville Pike is not as welcoming as the community it serves. The corridor is auto oriented with wide lanes, high speeds (posted speed limit of 40 mph), and narrow sidewalks and bike lanes, making walking or biking an unpleasant and dangerous experience. The corridor carries over 26,000 vehicles daily. Since 2014, 816 crashes have been reported, with 68 involving a pedestrian or bicyclist. Fifty-nine of the total crashes resulted in a fatality or serious injury, of which 40% involved someone walking or using a wheelchair. Sadly, 1 in 5 crashes involving a pedestrian resulted in the person dying. These numbers are considerably higher than the averages across Nashville. This is especially concerning given the high transit ridership along Nolensville

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These resources will be used to proactively construct safety improvements for those walking, bicycling, or using transit along Nolensville Pike between McCall Street and Haywood Lane, a total of 2.5 miles. Improvements are based on the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Proven Safety Countermeasures, which have been shown to improve safety.

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Sincerely,



Stephen G. Bland
Chief Executive Officer

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: We Are Nolensville Pike

2023 SS4A Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

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Much of the community that lives along the Nolensville Pike corridor are transit users who walk from their homes to the nearest bus stop. This is especially challenging as there is a lack of usable sidewalks, safely marked and timed crosswalks, and no protection from the multi-lane high speed (40 mph) traffic lanes. This is a community of people who are already vulnerable economically and socially. They should at least be able to travel along the main artery of their community without worrying about being killed or injured. The potential for loss, from young to old, is most severe because of the forced decision to walk or roll in the bicycle lane at great personal risk. There is no other safe option. Nashville wants to fix this, and we need your help.

The main concern of the Vision Zero Advisory Committee (VZAC) is the end of roadway deaths for anyone traveling throughout our city. When Nolensville Pike has one of the highest rates of traffic deaths of any road in our metro area it is impossible for us to be silent about improving the safety along it. The resources will be used to make a vibrant community safer by:

- building safe sidewalk connections where they are currently missing and/or are in need of repair;
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- constructing safer intersections and crossings, including adding high visibility crosswalks, adding pedestrian hybrid beacons at strategic locations, adjusting signal timings to include leading pedestrian intervals, and constructing bulb-out intersection features; and enhancing bus stop designs to ensure safe access.

These plans position Nashville to continually progress the corridor towards the ultimate long-term vision.

We are tired of people in our communities dying needlessly when measures can be taken to protect them or get them help more quickly. That is one of the reasons we are also excited about the NDOT project to improve first responder times to crash sites. This project will consist of a series of 6 signalized intersections and 60 emergency response vehicles to be fitted with EVP equipment, meaning the traffic signal will change to give a responding emergency vehicle priority. The pilot project will allow NDOT and its partners to evaluate the effectiveness of this type of system in reducing response times along critical corridors in the city. Given that there is a highly rated trauma hospital right in the middle of the proposed area of implementation this should be a straightforward way to save more lives.

We look forward to your approval of this grant request. Our committee is in full support of NDOT's plans to improve the safety of each person who travels Nolensville Pike.

Sincerely,

VZAC Nashville

Peter Robison, Chair
Hannah Sasscer, Vice Chair
Joy Andal, Member
Sandra Edgecombe, Member



Metro Public Health Dept

Nashville / Davidson County

Protecting, Improving, and Sustaining Health

John Cooper, Mayor

Gill C. Wright III, MD MMM FAAFP
Director of Health

Board of Health

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Marie R. Griffin MD MPH
Adriana Bialostozky MD

June 27, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: **We Are Nolensville Pike
2023 SS4A Grant Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Nolensville Pike is a major north-south arterial roadway on the Vision Zero High Injury Network (HIN) connecting south Nashville to downtown. It is known as Nashville's "international corridor," given the presence of many vibrant immigrant communities. Dozens of international businesses line the Pike, acting as community social spaces, economic drivers, and employment centers. The sights and smells of the markets, restaurants, food trucks, coffee shops, and bakeries consistently draw customers from all over the region.

The design of Nolensville Pike is not as welcoming as the community it serves. The corridor is auto-oriented with wide lanes, high speeds (the posted speed limit of 40 mph is most often observed in the breach), and narrow sidewalks and bike lanes that make walking or biking an unpleasant and dangerous experience. The corridor carries over 26,000 vehicles daily. Since 2014, 816 crashes have been reported, with 68 involving a pedestrian or bicyclist. Fifty-nine of the total crashes resulted in a fatality or serious injury, of which 40 percent involved someone walking or using a wheelchair. Sadly, 1 in 5 crashes involving a pedestrian resulted in the person dying. These numbers are considerably higher than the averages across Nashville. This is especially concerning given the high transit ridership along Nolensville Pike; 60 percent of fatal and serious injury pedestrian crashes in Nashville happen within 500 feet of a high-frequency transit stop.

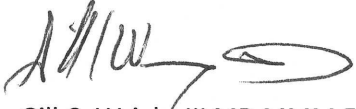
These resources will be used to proactively construct safety improvements for those walking, bicycling, or using transit along Nolensville Pike between McCall Street and Haywood Lane, a total of 2.5 miles. Improvements are based on the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Proven Safety Countermeasures, which have been shown to improve safety.

These will include, but are not limited to:

- building safe sidewalk connections where they are currently missing and/or need repair;
- constructing additional street and pedestrian-scale lighting to improve visibility during dark and low-light conditions;
- constructing safer intersections and crossings, including adding high visibility crosswalks, pedestrian hybrid beacons at strategic locations, adjusting signal timings to include leading pedestrian intervals, and constructing bulb-out intersection features; and
- enhancing bus stop designs to ensure safe access. These plans position Nashville to continually improve the corridor towards the ultimate long-term vision.

In addition to the safety improvements described above, NDOT also is requesting funding this year for a demonstration project along one of Nashville's "Pikes." This project will consist of a series of six signalized intersections and 60 emergency response vehicles to be fitted with EVP equipment, meaning the traffic signal will change to give a responding emergency vehicle priority. The pilot project will allow NDOT and its partners to evaluate the effectiveness of this type of system in reducing response times along critical corridors in the city. I am pleased to provide this letter of support for funding through the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Grant program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Wright III", with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Gill C. Wright III MD MMM FAAFP
Director of Health



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Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

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Sincerely,

Richard Schwartz
President & CEO
Nashville Zoo

