



May 5, 2022

Bryan Lopez  
NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division  
1552 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1552

Dear Mr. Lopez,

On behalf of The Gaston Business Association, an accredited Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to express our strong support for the City of Belmont's application for an NCDOT Multimodal Planning Grant.

As a business support organization, the GBA is committed to unifying the collective voice of business to enrich Gaston County's economic diversification, overall reputation, and regional position. Mobility is a crucial component to sustaining long-term economic prosperity for our community.

The GBA was an active stakeholder in the development of the recently completed Connect Beyond Regional Mobility Plan, which recommended a high-capacity transit corridor through the City of Belmont. We also participated in the initial planning efforts for the LYNX Silver Line, and firmly believe securing light rail in Belmont would have a positive economic impact for all of Gaston County.

The development of a multi-modal network plan building upon the vision of previous regional planning efforts is a logical next step toward ensuring shared visions can be carried out at a local level. Proactively planning for how to best address the integration of the various transportation options will help determine mobility solutions in Gaston County. This plan could also help address first and last mile challenges to maximize the accessibility of the network for the business community.

I again want to express my unequivocal support of the City of Belmont's application for an NCDOT Multimodal Planning Grant and appreciate your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Patrick T. Mumford'.

Patrick T. Mumford  
President & CEO  
Gaston Business Association