



July 11, 2022

Hon. Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Dept. of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to support a request from Raleigh-Durham International Airport (RDU) for \$275m in federal funding to replace and relocate its primary commercial service runway, 5L-23R.

RDU is a critical driver of job creation, prosperity, and quality of life throughout North Carolina's Research Triangle region, and its economic footprint continues to grow.

The Raleigh-Durham area ranks in the top 5 preferred U.S. locations for biotechnology companies and the RDU airport needs to keep pace with the demand that this type of corporate growth is generating.

RDU's 25-year master plan calls for improvements to the airfield, terminals, ground transportation, and general aviation. The current cost estimate is \$43.5 billion due to accelerated growth in passenger traffic.

Even with substantial local and airport fee increases and continued, significant state legislative support, RDU will not be able to fund the overall capital infrastructure needed to support the aviation demands of our growing region. Assistance from a federal partner will be essential.

We request that FAA provide a letter of intent for a 75% federal grant in support of the total \$366 million project cost so RDU can continue to serve as an increasingly vital node in the national commercial aviation system and an economic engine for this state.

Thank you for considering this request and your leadership of vital transportation across the country.

Sincerely,

Emily Ziegler
Board Chair
Morrisville Chamber of Commerce

cc:
Billy Nolen
Shannetta R. Griffin, P.E.