

ATTACHMENT C

From: [Don Berryann](#)
To: [Parker, Bonnie](#)
Subject: Public input on Coordinated Human Services Public Transportation Plan
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 1:50:11 PM

Bonnie, I would like to provide input on the above plan based on my experience working with Habitat for Humanity of Wake County.

Since Wake County began to expand and improve transit services in 2017, Habitat has been working to understand, educate and improve access to transit on behalf of Habitat homeowners. Housing and transportation expenses can create a huge burden on low income families, often representing 50% or more of their income.

Although the above Plan is supposed to help improve access to transit for low income populations, I see very little targeting that community. In our work within low income neighborhoods, I have found that the barriers to using public transportation go beyond bus route coverage, convenience and frequency. Many low income neighborhoods do not have safe access to transit stops. Without sidewalks, street lighting, safe speed limits and safe bicycle routes to reach a bus stops, it is too dangerous for residents to ride the bus.

Advocating to improve safe access, I have seen that it is extremely difficult to get needed safety improvements implemented. Even with neighborhood petitions in hand, government bureaucracy stands in the way. Bike/Pedestrian infrastructure, Lighting, Speed Limits, Bus Shelters and Transit Planning are all handled by different governmental departments. Worse, City and NCDOT ownership of different parts of a route to a bus stop means no progress will be made. NCDOT will quickly admit that they do not do neighborhood access to transit improvements - it's not part of their mission. Responsibilities cross between municipal, state and multiple transit agencies.

What is needed is a streamlined method of identifying/requesting improvements to safe access to transit services for low income neighborhoods and a Coordinated governmental process to get improvements implemented. The Coordinated Human Services Public Transportation Plan could and should provide this coordination.

In addition to providing affordable housing solutions, providing safe and affordable transportation are two of the most impactful changes our community can make to lift working low income families out of poverty.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide feedback on this program.

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