



## TOWN OF KILL DEVIL HILLS

Post Office Box 1719, 102 Town Hall Drive

Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina 27948

252-449-5300

[www.kdhnc.com](http://www.kdhnc.com)

September 14, 2022

Mayor  
**BENJAMIN A. SPROUL**

Mayor Pro Tem  
**IVY RAY INGRAM**

Commissioners  
**TERRY L. GRAY**  
**BERNARD B. MCAVOY, JR.**  
**JOHN L. WINDLEY**

Town Manager  
**DEBORA P. DIAZ**

Assistant Town Manager  
**CHARLENE S. ALLEN**

Town Clerk  
**JAMES MICHAEL O'DELL**

Town Attorney  
**CASEY C. VARNELL**

Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Re: North Carolina Department of Transportation BIP Large Bridge Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Town of Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina, expresses its overwhelming support for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT's) Bridge Investment Program (BIP) Large Bridge Grant Application for the US-64 over Alligator River Bridge Replacement Project, State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) HB-0001 connecting Tyrrell and Dare Counties.

At its September 12, 2022, meeting, our Board of Commissioners adopted the following item:

*Resolution in Continued Support of a New Bridge to Replace the  
Lindsay C. Warren Bridge across the Alligator River*

The existing bridge, constructed in 1960, is a 2.83 mile long, movable swing span bridge over the Intracoastal Waterway, which links eastern North Carolina's coastal communities with the rest of the state via the NC 64 corridor. Replacement is critical due its age and structural deficiency – with the span scoring only a 31.71 out of 100 in the 2020 sufficiency rating during NCDOT's inspection. In November 2019, the bridge underwent a major rehabilitation project (\$17 million) that allowed continued use of the bridge; however, those stop-gap repairs are only estimated to increase the functional life of the bridge for another 7 years before more extensive renovations will be required.

Named after former US Comptroller General Lindsay C. Warren, the bridge serves as a vital transportation link between the work force in the historically disadvantaged community (HDC) of Tyrrell County, Census Tract 9601 and tourism and other jobs, goods, and services on the Outer Banks. Tract 9601 is also listed as an Area of Persistent Poverty (APP).

It is estimated that 200-400 local residents utilize the bridge for their daily commute for employment alone. When service interruptions have taken place on the route, NCDOT has provided temporary "park and rides" with van and ferry services to accommodate the needs of the work force due to the 100-mile detour alternatives.

The bridge serves as a crucial commerce link for goods and services to the citizens of northeastern North Carolina, including the northern Outer Banks coastal communities. This tourism-based economy, with 4-6 million annual visitors to the area, is dependent upon this bridge for the ever-growing commercial and visitor traffic. In addition, this 62 year old bridge provides a critical hurricane evacuation route; it is one of only two US highways that access the northern Outer Banks.

The proposed replacement bridge will be a high-rise, fixed-span bridge allowing for uninterrupted vehicular and waterway traffic, eliminating the operational cost of a movable bridge. The elimination of the swing span will increase safety for both waterway and vehicular traffic. The planned bridge will be a longer structure, designed to reduce wetlands impacts and allow improved wildlife crossings. Recent cost increases in roadway construction materials have jeopardized financing this project, rendering financial assistance critical. The proposed improvements will benefit operation of the Intracoastal Waterway and ensure waterway freight is not interrupted.

The Town of Kill Devil Hills requests your consideration of the US-64 Bridge Replacement application for receipt of BIP grant funding.

Sincerely,



Ben Sproul,  
Mayor

Encl.

c: Dare County Board of Commissioners  
Duck Town Council  
Southern Shores Town Council  
Kitty Hawk Town Council  
Nags Head Board of Commissioners  
Manteo Board of Commissioners  
Kill Devil Hills Board of Commissioners  
file





## TOWN OF KILL DEVIL HILLS

*Land Where Flight Began*

### **Resolution in Continued Support of a New Bridge to Replace the Lindsay C. Warren Bridge across the Alligator River**

**WHEREAS**, The Lindsay C. Warren Bridge is a swing-span style of drawbridge that crosses the Alligator River in eastern North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, The bridge was constructed in 1960, and serves as the main transportation link along North Carolina Highway 64 from areas west of Dare County; and

**WHEREAS**, The Alligator River is part of the Intercoastal Waterway and is used by numerous commercial shipping and recreational vessels, with delays and back-ups caused by the bridge's operations; and

**WHEREAS**, The Lindsay C. Warren Bridge is an essential hurricane evacuation route for the residents of Dare, Currituck, and Hyde Counties, and the millions of seasonal Outer Banks visitors, and the continuous functionality of the bridge is imperative to ensure the safety of our residents and visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, The draw-bridge infrastructure of the bridge is obsolete and was closed for repairs in 2017 and 2019, resulting in lengthy delays and detours for residents, visitors, and commerce to and from Dare, Currituck, Hyde and Tyrrell Counties; and

**WHEREAS**, The Lindsay C. Warren Bridge has been rated by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) as "structurally deficient," which indicates that the span is reaching the end of its useful life, and must be regularly monitored, inspected, and maintained.

**WHEREAS**, An estimated 200 – 400 local residents regularly traverse the bridge to report to their employment, demonstrating the continued necessity for a safe and dependable transportation infrastructure for the local economy, including its workers; and

**WHEREAS**, The bridge is being utilized by an ever-increasing level of commercial and visitor traffic, it is a critically vital economic link for eastern North Carolina and its citizens; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED** That the Kill Devil Hills Board of Commissioners urgently requests a new bridge to replace the existing span for the Alligator River in recognition of the essential role this span plays in the transportation and commerce needs of Kill Devil Hills, Dare County, and Eastern North Carolina;

This the 12<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2022.

SEAL



Benjamin A. Sproul  
Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Benjamin A. Sproul", written over a horizontal line.

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "James Michael O'Dell", written over a horizontal line.

James Michael O'Dell  
Town Clerk