

CAPE FEAR MEMORIAL BRIDGE REPLACEMENT



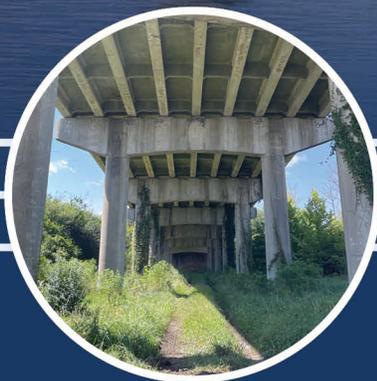
ATTACHMENT B: Letters of Support

FY 2023 - FY 2026

NOVEMBER 27, 2023

BRIDGE INVESTMENT PROGRAM

LARGE BRIDGE PROJECT GRANTS



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

November 17, 2023

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

RE: Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Replacement – Application to Fiscal Years 2023 – 2026 Bridge Investment Program, Large Bridge Project Grants

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I am writing in reference to the application for funding submitted by the North Carolina Department of Transportation to the Large Bridge Project portion of the Bridge Investment Program to help fund the replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge in Southeastern North Carolina.

The Cape Fear Memorial Bridge serves as a critical junction for U.S. Highways 17, 76, 421, crossing the Cape Fear River connecting New Hanover and Brunswick counties. The bridge, with its two-tower vertical lift, has been an iconic fixture in our community for more than fifty years while facilitating the transport of goods brought to and from the Port of Wilmington in addition to the connectivity it provides for all who utilize it. Unfortunately, the bridge's capacity and aging lift structure is becoming functionally obsolete; recent inspections substantiate and underscore its need for replacement. Its current declining state, combined with the significant growth of the region, make this project imperative.

Not only is the proposed replacement a critically needed infrastructure update that will bring much needed operational and capacity improvements to meet existing and growing transportation demands, but it would also be the region's first bicycle and pedestrian connection between Brunswick and New Hanover counties. The replacement designs also demonstrate new environmental and safety benefits, updating the roadway to meet both regional and statewide infrastructure development goals. A bridge that meets the demands of the region today and in the future will ensure efficient traffic flow on one of North Carolina's key Strategic Transportation Corridors and improve a critical evacuation route for the area's residents when hurricanes and other natural disasters hit.

I appreciate your thorough consideration of the North Carolina Department of Transportation's application. I expect that your review will find this project to be an appropriate and meritorious use of funding just as I do. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Katie Smith, a member of my staff, at Katie.Smith@mail.house.gov or at (910) 500-4880.

Sincerely,





North Carolina General Assembly
House of Representatives

REPRESENTATIVE FRANK ILER
17TH DISTRICT

November 27, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Replacement – Application to Fiscal Years 2023 – 2026 Bridge Investment Program, Large Bridge Project Grants

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to voice Brunswick County's robust support for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT's) application for a Bridge Investment Program, Large Bridge Grant to help fund the replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge. The bridge, serving as a junction for US 17, US 76, and US 421, connects New Hanover County to Brunswick County. It is an iconic fixture in our community, built over fifty years ago. But the bridge is now showing its age and is functionally obsolete. Recent inspections highlight the need for its replacement. Its current state, combined with significant growth expected in the region, make the replacement project imperative.

The proposed replacement is more than an infrastructure update. It will bring much needed operational and capacity improvements to meet existing and continuing transportation demands, as well as the region's first bicycle and pedestrian connection between Brunswick and New Hanover counties. The bridge is also a lifeline for the Port of Wilmington, a significant hub for our state's economic activities and the most efficient port in North America, according to the 2022 Container Port Performance Index.

Another notable advantage of the new design will be its environmental and safety benefits. The proposed alternatives and design considerations harmonize with both regional and statewide infrastructure development goals, ensuring sustained and efficient traffic flow on one of North Carolina's key Strategic Transportation Corridors.

The project is an opportunity to direct significant infrastructure investment in a historically disadvantaged community, with disproportionate numbers of low-income households surrounding the bridge. These communities face elevated natural hazard risks associated with flooding, and a new, more resilient bridge will serve a critical role in maintaining evacuation routes in case of an emergency.

Projects like the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Replacement exemplify the intent behind the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. This project is not just about improving connectivity but addressing historical inequities, bolstering the economy, and ensuring a sustainable future.

We earnestly request your consideration of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Replacement application for the receipt of MPDG grant funding.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Frank Iler".

Representative Frank Iler, District 17 Brunswick County





North Carolina General Assembly
Senate
523 Legislative Office Building
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603-5925

SENATOR MICHAEL LEE
7TH District

Office: (919) 715-2525
Michael.Lee@ncleg.gov

November 13, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Replacement- Application to Fiscal Years 2023-2026 Bridge Investment Program, Large Bridge Project Grants

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to voice my robust support for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT's) application for a Bridge Investment Program, Large Bridge Grant to help fund the replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge.

The bridge, serving as a junction for US 17, US 76, and US 421, connects New Hanover County to Brunswick County. It is an iconic fixture in our community, built over fifty years ago. The bridge is now showing its age and is functionally obsolete. Recent inspections highlight the need for its replacement. Its current state, combined with significant growth expected in the region, make the replacement project imperative.

The proposed replacement is more than an infrastructure update. It will bring much needed operational and capacity improvements to meet existing and continuing transportation demands, as well as the region's first bicycle and pedestrian connection between Brunswick and New Hanover counties. The bridge is also a lifeline for the Port of Wilmington, a significant hub for our state's economic activities and the most efficient port in North America, according to the 2022 Container Port Performance Index.

Another notable advantage of the new design will be its environmental and safety benefits. The proposed alternatives and design considerations harmonize with both regional and statewide infrastructure development goals, ensuring sustained and efficient traffic flow on one of North Carolina's key Strategic Transportation Corridors.

The project is an opportunity to direct significant infrastructure investment in a historically disadvantaged community, with disproportionate numbers of low-income households surrounding the bridge. These communities face elevated natural hazard risks associated with

flooding, and a new, more resilient bridge will serve a critical role in maintaining evacuation routes in case of an emergency.

Projects like the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Replacement exemplify the intent behind the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. This project is not just about improving connectivity but addressing historical inequities, bolstering the economy, and ensuring a sustainable future.

We earnestly request your consideration of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Replacement application for the receipt of MPDG grant funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Lee", written in a cursive style.

Senator Michael V. Lee
District 7

Resolution



City Council
City of Wilmington
North Carolina

Introduced By: Anthony N. Caudle, City Manager

Date: 11/8/2023

Resolution Supporting the North Carolina Department of Transportation's Application to the United States Department of Transportation for the Bridge Investment Program to Replace the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge

LEGISLATIVE INTENT/PURPOSE:

WHEREAS, the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge, linking US 17, US 76, and US 421 over the Cape Fear River, has been an indispensable conduit for regional transportation and economic development; and,

WHEREAS, the replacement of the bridge adds an additional lane of capacity for the projected 94,900 vehicles per day that will travel it in 2050, compared to the 2023 base year counts of 65,200 vehicles per day; and,

WHEREAS, the replacement of the bridge also adds a 15' Multi-use path which will serve as the only bicycle and pedestrian connection between New Hanover County and Brunswick County, which does not currently exist today; and,

WHEREAS, the bridge is a critical element in facilitating freight movement to and from the Port of Wilmington, ranked as the most productive port in North America and 44th in the world for 2022, underlining its importance to the regional economy; and,

WHEREAS, assessments from the 2021 Routine Inspection Report designate the bridge as functionally obsolete; and,

WHEREAS, given the repeated financial investments for its rehabilitation, including \$15M in 2019 and an anticipated \$15M-\$20M in 2024, accompanied by a 20-week one-direction (10-weeks in each direction) traffic shutdown, there exists a pressing imperative for a holistic solution; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed alternatives and design considerations harmonize with both regional and statewide infrastructure development goals, ensuring sustained and efficient traffic flow on one of North Carolina's key Strategic Transportation Corridors; and,

WHEREAS, the most recently available crash data, drawn from the bridge and its contiguous roadways, underscore the urgency of the situation, with trends consistently surpassing statewide crash metrics; and,

CITY CLERK
CERTIFIED TO BE A TRUE COPY
Arlene Spivey Sidham

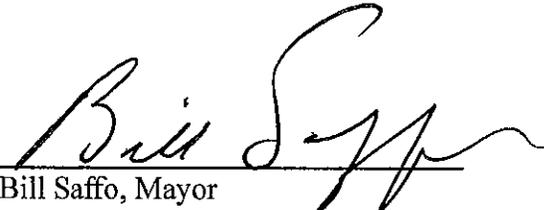
WHEREAS, beyond ameliorating current traffic and safety challenges, the replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge stands to stimulate regional economic resurgence, amplify the operational efficacy of the Port of Wilmington, and foster economic opportunities in neighboring underserved areas; and,

WHEREAS, this initiative holds pronounced potential environmental dividends, including a marked reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and bolstered infrastructure resilience against natural adversities.

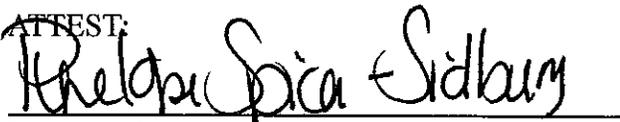
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT, the Wilmington City Council hereby expresses its support and endorsement for the NCDOT's application to the United States Department of Transportation for the Bridge Investment Program to replace the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge.

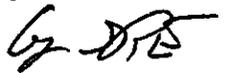
Adopted at a regular meeting
on November 8, 2023


Bill Saffo, Mayor

ATTEST:


Penelope Spicer-Sidbury, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


City Attorney






November 6, 2023

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

RE: North Carolina Department of Transportation's application to the US Department of Transportation's Bridge Investment Program (BIP) for the Replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the North Carolina State Ports Authority (the Authority), I am writing to express our support for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) application to the US Department of Transportation's Bridge Investment Program (BIP) for the Replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge.

The Authority owns and operates an ocean terminal in Wilmington, North Carolina and the operation of such a terminal is a tremendous catalyst for economic growth and development throughout North Carolina and the region. The Authority contributes more than \$16.2 billion in annual economic contribution to the state's economy constituted by goods moving through the port facilities and supported 88,200 full-time jobs at North Carolina businesses. In 2022, the container terminal at the Port of Wilmington was ranked as the most productive port in North America in the latest Container Port Performance Index (CPPI), underlining its importance to the regional economy.

The Authority fully supports NCDOT's efforts to replace the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge as it is the designated truck route for the Port of Wilmington. The replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge will stimulate regional economic resurgence, amplify the operational efficacy of the Port of Wilmington, and foster economic opportunities in the region. Providing capacity and resiliency on this critical freight and evacuation route will improve continuity of operations for port customers, residents, and emergency services.

We are proud to partner with NCDOT in supporting this critical bridge project that will keep our freight moving safely and efficiently.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "BEC", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Brian E. Clark
Executive Director
North Carolina State Ports Authority

**WILMINGTON URBAN AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
BOARD**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION'S APPLICATION TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION FOR THE BRIDGE INVESTMENT PROGRAM TO REPLACE THE
CAPE FEAR MEMORIAL BRIDGE**

WHEREAS, the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization provides transportation planning services for the City of Wilmington, Town of Carolina Beach, Town of Kure Beach, Town of Wrightsville Beach, Town of Belville, Town of Leland, Town of Navassa, New Hanover County, Brunswick County, Pender County, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority, and the North Carolina Board of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge, linking US 17, US 76, and US 421 over the Cape Fear River, has been an indispensable conduit for regional transportation and economic development; and

WHEREAS, the replacement of the bridge adds an additional lane of capacity for the projected 94,900 vehicles per day that will travel it in 2050 compared to the 2023 base year counts of 65,200 vehicles per day; and

WHEREAS, the replacement of the bridge also adds a 15' Multi-use path which will serve as the only bicycle and pedestrian connection between New Hanover County and Brunswick County, which does not currently exist today; and

WHEREAS, the bridge is a critical element in facilitating freight movement to and from the Port of Wilmington, ranked number 1 as the most productive port in North America and 44th in the world for 2022, underlining its importance to the regional economy; and

WHEREAS, assessments from the 2021 Routine Inspection Report designate the bridge as functionally obsolete; and

WHEREAS, given the repeated financial investments for its rehabilitation, including \$15M in 2019 and an anticipated \$15M-\$20M in 2024, accompanied by a 20-week one-direction (10-weeks in each direction) traffic shutdown, there exists a pressing imperative for a holistic solution; and

WHEREAS, the proposed alternatives and design considerations harmonize with both regional and statewide infrastructure development goals, ensuring sustained and efficient traffic flow on one of North Carolina's key Strategic Transportation Corridors; and

WHEREAS, the most recently available crash data, drawn from the bridge and its contiguous roadways, underscore the urgency of the situation, with trends consistently surpassing statewide crash metrics. The project is poised to mitigate these crash rates; and

WHEREAS, beyond ameliorating current traffic and safety challenges, the replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge stands to stimulate regional economic resurgence, amplify the operational efficacy of the Port of Wilmington, and foster economic opportunities in neighboring underserved areas; and

WHEREAS, this initiative holds pronounced potential environmental dividends, including a marked reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and bolstered infrastructure resilience against natural adversities; and

WHEREAS, the replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge is the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's top unfunded transportation priority.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization hereby expresses its support and endorsement for the NCDOT's application to the United States Department of Transportation for the Bridge Investment Program to replace the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge.

ADOPTED at a special meeting of the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's Board on November 3, 2023.



Henry E. Miller III, Chair



Mike Kozlosky, Secretary



BELVILLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S APPLICATION TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE BRIDGE INVESTMENT PROGRAM TO REPLACE THE CAPE FEAR MEMORIAL BRIDGE

WHEREAS, the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization provides transportation planning services for the City of Wilmington, Town of Carolina Beach, Town of Kure Beach, Town of Wrightsville Beach, Town of Belville, Town of Leland, Town of Navassa, New Hanover County, Brunswick County, Pender County, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority, and the North Carolina Board of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge, linking US 17, US 76, and US 421 over the Cape Fear River, has been an indispensable conduit for regional transportation and economic development; and

WHEREAS, the replacement of the bridge adds an additional lane of capacity for the projected 94,900 vehicles per day that will travel it in 2050 compared to the 2023 base year counts of 65,200 vehicles per day; and

WHEREAS, the replacement of the bridge also adds a 15' Multi-use path which will serve as the only bicycle and pedestrian connection between New Hanover County and Brunswick County, which does not currently exist today; and

WHEREAS, the bridge is a critical element in facilitating freight movement to and from the Port of Wilmington, ranked number 1 as the most productive port in North America and 44th in the world for 2022, underlining its importance to the regional economy; and

WHEREAS, assessments from the 2021 Routine Inspection Report designate the bridge as functionally obsolete; and

WHEREAS, given the repeated financial investments for its rehabilitation, including \$15M in 2019 and an anticipated \$15M-\$20M in 2024, accompanied by a 20-week one-direction (10 weeks in each direction) traffic shutdown, there exists a pressing imperative for a holistic solution; and

WHEREAS, the proposed alternatives and design considerations harmonize with both regional and statewide infrastructure development goals, ensuring sustained and efficient traffic flow on one of North Carolina's key Strategic Transportation Corridors; and

WHEREAS, the most recently available crash data, drawn from the bridge and its contiguous roadways, underscore the urgency of the situation, with trends consistently surpassing statewide crash metrics. The project is poised to mitigate these crash rates; and

WHEREAS, beyond ameliorating current traffic and safety challenges, the replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge stands to stimulate regional economic resurgence, amplify the operational efficacy of the Port of Wilmington, and foster economic opportunities in neighboring underserved areas; and

WHEREAS, this initiative holds pronounced potential environmental dividends, including a marked reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and bolstered infrastructure resilience against natural adversities; and

WHEREAS, the Belville Board of Commissioners support the replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge and agree that it should be the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's top unfunded transportation priority.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Belville Supports the Board of the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization and hereby expresses its support and endorsement for the NCDOT's application to the United States Department of Transportation for the Bridge Investment Program to replace the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge.

Resolved this 13th Day of November, 2023.



SIGNED:


Mike Allen, Mayor

ATTEST:


Sharon A. Niemann, Town Clerk

Resolution



Town of Carolina Beach
Town Council

RESOLUTION NO. 23-2299

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S (NCDOT) APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S BRIDGE INVESTMENT PROGRAM (BIP) FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE CAPE FEAR MEMORIAL BRIDGE

WHEREAS, the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge, linking US 17, US 76, and US 421 over the Cape Fear River, has been an indispensable conduit for regional transportation and economic development;

WHEREAS, the replacement of the bridge adds an additional lane of capacity for the projected 94,900 vehicles per day that will travel it in 2050 compared to the 2023 base year counts of 65,200 vehicles per day.

WHEREAS, the replacement of the bridge also adds a 15' Multi-use path which will serve as the only bicycle and pedestrian connection between New Hanover County and Brunswick County, which does not currently exist today.

WHEREAS, the bridge is a critical element in facilitating freight movement to and from the Port of Wilmington, ranked number 1 as the most productive port in North America and 44th in the world for 2022, underlining its importance to the regional economy;

WHEREAS, assessments from the 2021 Routine Inspection Report designate the bridge as functionally obsolete;

WHEREAS, given the repeated financial investments for its rehabilitation, including \$15M in 2019 and an anticipated \$15M-\$20M in 2024, accompanied by a 20-week one-direction (10-weeks in each direction) traffic shutdown, there exists a pressing imperative for a holistic solution;

WHEREAS, the proposed alternatives and design considerations harmonize with both regional and statewide infrastructure development goals, ensuring sustained and efficient traffic flow on one of North Carolina's key Strategic Transportation Corridors;

WHEREAS, the most recently available crash data, drawn from the bridge and its contiguous roadways, underscore the urgency of the situation, with trends consistently surpassing statewide crash metrics. The project is poised to mitigate these crash rates;

WHEREAS, beyond ameliorating current traffic and safety challenges, the replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge stands to stimulate regional economic resurgence, amplify the operational efficacy of the Port of Wilmington, and foster economic opportunities in neighboring underserved areas;

WHEREAS, this initiative holds pronounced potential environmental dividends, including a marked reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and bolstered infrastructure resilience against natural adversities.

Resolution



Town of Carolina Beach
Town Council

RESOLUTION NO. 23-2299

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Carolina Beach unequivocally expresses its support and endorsement for the NCDOT's application for Federal Discretionary Grants for the much-needed replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge.

TOWN OF CAROLINA BEACH

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Albert L. Barbee", written over a horizontal line.

Albert L. Barbee, Mayor



ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kimberlee Ward", written over a horizontal line.

Kimberlee Ward, Town Clerk



Resolution R-23-083

Introduced By: Sabrena Reinhardt

Date: November 16, 2023

Resolution in Support of the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) Application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bridge Investment Program (BIP) for the Replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge

WHEREAS, the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge, linking US 17, US 76, and US 421 over the Cape Fear River, has been an indispensable conduit for regional transportation and economic development; and

WHEREAS, the replacement of the bridge adds an additional lane of capacity for the projected 94,900 vehicles per day that will travel it in 2050 compared to the 2023 base year counts of 65,200 vehicles per day; and

WHEREAS, the replacement of the bridge also adds a 15' multi-use path which will serve as the only bicycle and pedestrian connection between New Hanover County and Brunswick County, which does not currently exist today; and

WHEREAS, the bridge is a critical element in facilitating freight movement to and from the Port of Wilmington, ranked number one as the most productive port in North America and 44th in the world for 2022, underlining its importance to the regional economy; and

WHEREAS, assessments from the 2021 Routine Inspection Report designate the bridge as functionally obsolete; and

WHEREAS, given the repeated financial investments for its rehabilitation, including \$15M in 2019 and an anticipated \$15M-\$20M in 2024, accompanied by a 20-week one-direction (10-weeks in each direction) traffic shutdown, there exists a pressing imperative for a holistic solution; and

WHEREAS, the proposed alternatives and design considerations harmonize with both regional and statewide infrastructure development goals, ensuring sustained and efficient traffic flow on one of North Carolina's key Strategic Transportation Corridors; and

WHEREAS, the most recently available crash data, drawn from the bridge and its contiguous roadways, underscore the urgency of the situation, with trends consistently surpassing statewide crash metrics. The project is poised to mitigate these crash rates; and

WHEREAS, beyond ameliorating current traffic and safety challenges, the replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge stands to stimulate regional economic resurgence, amplify the operational efficacy of the Port of Wilmington, and foster economic opportunities in neighboring underserved areas; and

WHEREAS, this initiative holds pronounced potential environmental dividends, including a marked reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and bolstered infrastructure resilience against natural adversities.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Leland unequivocally expresses its support and endorsement for the NCDOT's application for Federal Discretionary Grants for the much-needed replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge.

Adopted by Town Council on this 16th day of November, 2023.


Brenda Bozeman, Mayor


Sabrena A. Reinhardt, Town Clerk





**KURE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN OF KURE BEACH, NC**

RESOLUTION R23-16

**TOWN OF KURE BEACH RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S APPLICATION TO THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE BRIDGE INVESTMENT
PROGRAM TO REPLACE THE CAPE FEAR MEMORIAL BRIDGE**

WHEREAS, the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge, linking US 17, US 76, and US 421 over the Cape Fear River, has been an indispensable conduit for regional transportation and economic development; and

WHEREAS, the replacement of the bridge adds an additional lane of capacity for the projected 94,900 vehicles per day that will travel it in 2050 compared to the 2023 base year counts of 65,200 vehicles per day; and

WHEREAS, the replacement of the bridge also adds a 15' multi-use path which will serve as the only bicycle and pedestrian connection between New Hanover County and Brunswick County, which does not currently exist today; and

WHEREAS, the bridge is a critical element in facilitating freight movement to and from the Port of Wilmington, ranked number 1 as the most productive port in North America and 44th in the world for 2022, underlining its importance to the regional economy; and

WHEREAS, assessments from the 2021 Routine Inspection Report designate the bridge as functionally obsolete; and

WHEREAS, given the repeated financial investments for its rehabilitation, including \$15M in 2019 and an anticipated \$15M-\$20M in 2024, accompanied by a 20-week one-direction (10-weeks in each direction) traffic shutdown, there exists a pressing imperative for a holistic solution; and

WHEREAS, the proposed alternatives and design considerations harmonize with both regional and statewide infrastructure development goals, ensuring sustained and efficient traffic flow on one of North Carolina's key Strategic Transportation Corridors; and

WHEREAS, the most recently available crash data, drawn from the bridge and its contiguous roadways, underscore the urgency of the situation, with trends consistently surpassing statewide crash metrics. The project is poised to mitigate these crash rates; and

WHEREAS, beyond ameliorating current traffic and safety challenges, the replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge stands to stimulate regional economic resurgence, amplify the operational efficacy of the Port of Wilmington, and foster economic opportunities in neighboring underserved areas; and

WHEREAS, this initiative holds pronounced potential environmental dividends, including a marked reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and bolstered infrastructure resilience against natural adversities; and

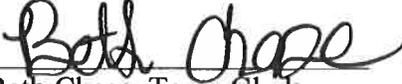
WHEREAS, the replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge is the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's top unfunded transportation priority.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the TOWN OF KURE BEACH hereby expresses its support and endorsement for the NCDOT's application to the United States Department of Transportation for the Bridge Investment Program to replace the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge.

ADOPTED by the TOWN OF KURE BEACH on November 16, 2023.


Craig Bloszinsky, Mayor

ATTEST:


Beth Chase, Town Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. (2023) 2317

Board of Aldermen
Town of Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina
Date: November 9, 2023



RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S (NCDOT) APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S BRIDGE INVESTMENT PROGRAM (BIP) FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE CAPE FEAR MEMORIAL BRIDGE

WHEREAS, the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge, linking US 17, US 76, and US 421 over the Cape Fear River, has been an indispensable conduit for regional transportation and economic development;

WHEREAS, the replacement of the bridge adds an additional lane of capacity for the projected 94,900 vehicles per day that will travel it in 2050 compared to the 2023 base year counts of 65,200 vehicles per day.

WHEREAS, the replacement of the bridge also adds a 15' Multi-use path which will serve as the only bicycle and pedestrian connection between New Hanover County and Brunswick County, which does not currently exist today.

WHEREAS, the bridge is a critical element in facilitating freight movement to and from the Port of Wilmington, ranked number 1 as the most productive port in North America and 44th in the world for 2022, underlining its importance to the regional economy;

WHEREAS, assessments from the 2021 Routine Inspection Report designate the bridge as functionally obsolete;

WHEREAS, given the repeated financial investments for its rehabilitation, including \$15M in 2019 and an anticipated \$15M-\$20M in 2024, accompanied by a 20-week one-direction (10-weeks in each direction) traffic shutdown, there exists a pressing imperative for a holistic solution;

WHEREAS, the proposed alternatives and design considerations harmonize with both regional and statewide infrastructure development goals, ensuring sustained and efficient traffic flow on one of North Carolina's key Strategic Transportation Corridors;

WHEREAS, the most recently available crash data, drawn from the bridge and its contiguous roadways, underscore the urgency of the situation, with trends consistently surpassing statewide crash metrics. The project is poised to mitigate these crash rates;

WHEREAS, beyond ameliorating current traffic and safety challenges, the replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge stands to stimulate regional economic resurgence, amplify the operational efficacy of the Port of Wilmington, and foster economic opportunities in neighboring underserved areas;

WHEREAS, this initiative holds pronounced potential environmental dividends, including a marked reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and bolstered infrastructure resilience against natural adversities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Wrightsville Beach unequivocally expresses its support and endorsement for the NCDOT's application for Federal Discretionary Grants for the much-needed replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge.

This Resolution adopted this 9th day of November, 2023



F. Darryl Mills, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lance G. Heater, Town Clerk

(SEAL)





TOWN OF NAVASSA
334 MAIN STREET
NAVASSA, NC 28451
Phone: (910) 371-2432

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE NCDOT APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION'S BRIDGE INVESTMENT PROGRAM SUPPORTING
REPLACEMENT OF THE CAPE FEAR MEMORIAL BRIDGE**

WHEREAS the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge links 3 main transportation arteries over the Cape Fear River at Wilmington North Carolina, AND

WHEREAS replacement of the bridge includes an additional lane to increase capacity for the projected 94,900 vehicles per day projected to travel it by 2050 compared to the 2023 base year counts of 65,200 vehicles per day, AND

WHEREAS the replacement of the bridge also adds a 15' multi-use path which will serve as a bicycle and pedestrian connection between New Hanover County and Brunswick County, AND

WHEREAS the bridge is a critical element in facilitating freight movement to and from the Port of Wilmington, AND

WHEREAS assessments from the 2021 Routine Inspections Report designate the bridge as functionally obsolete, AND

WHEREAS given the ongoing financial burden for its rehabilitation, including \$15M in 2019 and an anticipated \$15M-\$20M in 2024, accompanied by multiple Lane closures and traffic shutdowns, AND

WHEREAS, the most recently available crash data, drawn from the bridge and its contiguous roadways, underscore the urgency of the situation, AND

WHEREAS the replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge stands to stimulate a regional economic resurgence and foster economic opportunities in neighboring underserved areas including The Town of Navassa, AND

WHEREAS this initiative will result in potential environmental benefits, including a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and improved infrastructure resilience against natural disasters.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The Town of Navassa is expressing its support and endorsement for the NCDOT's application for Federal Discretionary Grants to facilitate replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge.

Adopted this 20 day of November 2023:

Mayor Eulis A Willis



**BRUNSWICK COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S
(NCDOT) APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S BRIDGE
INVESTMENT PROGRAM (BIP) FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE CAPE FEAR MEMORIAL BRIDGE**

WHEREAS, the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge, linking US 17, US 76, and US 421 over the Cape Fear River, has been an indispensable conduit for regional transportation and economic development;

WHEREAS, the replacement of the bridge adds an additional lane of capacity for the projected 94,900 vehicles per day that will travel it in 2050 compared to the 2023 base year counts of 65,200 vehicles per day.

WHEREAS, the replacement of the bridge also adds a 15' Multi-use path which will serve as the only bicycle and pedestrian connection between New Hanover County and Brunswick County, which does not currently exist today.

WHEREAS, the bridge is a critical element in facilitating freight movement to and from the Port of Wilmington, ranked number 1 as the most productive port in North America and 44th in the world for 2022, underlining its importance to the regional economy;

WHEREAS, assessments from the 2021 Routine Inspection Report designate the bridge as functionally obsolete;

WHEREAS, given the repeated financial investments for its rehabilitation, including \$15M in 2019 and an anticipated \$15M-\$20M in 2024, accompanied by a 20-week one-direction (10-weeks in each direction) traffic shutdown, there exists a pressing imperative for a holistic solution;

WHEREAS, the proposed alternatives and design considerations harmonize with both regional and statewide infrastructure development goals, ensuring sustained and efficient traffic flow on one of North Carolina's key Strategic Transportation Corridors;

WHEREAS, the most recently available crash data, drawn from the bridge and its contiguous roadways, underscore the urgency of the situation, with trends consistently surpassing statewide crash metrics. The project is poised to mitigate these crash rates;

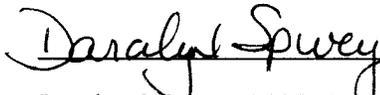
WHEREAS, beyond ameliorating current traffic and safety challenges, the replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge stands to stimulate regional economic resurgence, amplify the operational efficacy of the Port of Wilmington, and foster economic opportunities in neighboring underserved areas;

WHEREAS, this initiative holds pronounced potential environmental dividends, including a marked reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and bolstered infrastructure resilience against natural adversities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners unequivocally expresses its support and endorsement for the NCDOT's application for Federal Discretionary Grants for the much-needed replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge.


Randy Thompson, Chair
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:


Daralyn Spivey, NCCCC, CMC
Clerk to the Board





NEW HANOVER COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

230 Government Center Drive, Suite 175, Wilmington, NC 28403

P: (910) 798-7149 | F: (910) 798-7145 | NHCgov.com

Bill Rivenbark, Chair | **LeAnn Pierce**, Vice-Chair

Jonathan Barfield, Jr., Commissioner | **Dane Scalise**, Commissioner | **Rob Zapple**, Commissioner

November 20, 2023

U.S. Department of Transportation
Attention: Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Letter of Support for NC Department of Transportation's Application for the Bridge Investment Program

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the New Hanover County Board of Commissioners, representing more than 220,000 residents and numerous daily visitors, I write to express our strong support for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) application for the Bridge Investment Program, specifically for the replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge.

The Cape Fear Memorial Bridge, serving as a crucial link between New Hanover and Brunswick counties, symbolizes our region's growth and vitality. However, after over 50 years, it has become functionally obsolete. The limitations and inefficiencies of the bridge are increasingly evident, making the NCDOT's replacement project vital for safety and community resilience.

This initiative is in line with the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, aiming not only to improve connectivity but also to address historical inequities, foster economic growth, and ensure a sustainable, safer future. The modernized bridge will enhance operational capabilities and meet the transportation needs of our rapidly growing area.

The project's environmental and safety improvements are significant, including better traffic flow and reduced greenhouse gas emissions, aligning with regional and statewide sustainable infrastructure goals. It will also provide improved evacuation routes and enhance resilience against natural disasters.

The Cape Fear Memorial Bridge plays a critical role in supporting the Port of Wilmington, a key economic driver and, as of 2022, the most productive port in North America. Replacing the bridge signifies a commitment to our region's economic and environmental future.

On November 20, 2023, the New Hanover County Board of Commissioners unanimously passed a resolution in support of this project, underscoring our collective commitment to the bridge's replacement. This letter accompanies that resolution, reaffirming our endorsement of the NCDOT's application and our belief in the project's potential to significantly benefit our community.

We appreciate your consideration of these factors in reviewing the NCDOT's application and thank you for your attention to this vital matter.

Sincerely,


Bill Rivenbark
Chair

BR/js
Enclosure

NEW HANOVER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S (NCDOT) APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S BRIDGE INVESTMENT PROGRAM (BIP) FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE CAPE FEAR MEMORIAL BRIDGE

WHEREAS, the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge, linking US 17, US 76, and US 421 over the Cape Fear River, has been an indispensable conduit for regional transportation and economic development; and

WHEREAS, replacement of the bridge adds an additional lane of capacity for the projected 94,900 vehicles per day that will travel it in 2050 compared to the 2023 base year counts of 65,200 vehicles per day; and

WHEREAS, the replacement of the bridge also adds a 15-foot multi-use path which will serve as the only bicycle and pedestrian connection between New Hanover County and Brunswick County, which does not currently exist today; and

WHEREAS, the bridge is a critical element in facilitating freight movement to and from the Port of Wilmington, ranked number 1 as the most productive port in North America and 44th in the world for 2022, underlining its importance to the regional economy; and

WHEREAS, assessments from the 2021 routine inspection report designate the bridge as functionally obsolete; and

WHEREAS, given the repeated financial investments for its rehabilitation, including \$15 million in 2019 and an anticipated \$15 million to \$20 million in 2024, accompanied by a 20-week one-direction (10 weeks in each direction) traffic shutdown, there exists a pressing imperative for a holistic solution; and

WHEREAS, the proposed alternatives and design considerations harmonize with both regional and statewide infrastructure development goals, ensuring sustained and efficient traffic flow on one of North Carolina's key strategic transportation corridors; and

WHEREAS, the most recently available crash data, drawn from the bridge and its contiguous roadways, underscore the urgency of the situation, with trends consistently surpassing statewide crash metrics. The project is poised to mitigate these crash rates; and

WHEREAS, beyond ameliorating current traffic and safety challenges, the replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge stands to stimulate regional economic resurgence, amplify the operational efficacy of the Port of Wilmington, and foster economic opportunities in neighboring underserved areas; and

WHEREAS, this initiative holds pronounced potential environmental dividends, including a marked reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and bolstered infrastructure resilience against natural adversities; and

WHEREAS, the New Hanover County Board of Commissioners has identified the replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge as a legislative goal and priority.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the New Hanover County Board of Commissioners expresses its support and endorsement for the NCDOT's application for Federal Discretionary Grants for the much-needed replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge.

ADOPTED, this the 20th day of November, 2023.



NEW HANOVER COUNTY

William E. Rivenbark

William E. Rivenbark, Chair

ATTEST:

Kymerleigh G. Crowell

Kymerleigh G. Crowell, Clerk to the Board

Board of County Commissioners
Jacqueline A. (Jackie) Newton – Chair
Wendy Fletcher-Hardee – Vice Chair
Archibald (Fred) McCoy
Jerry Groves
Brad George



County Manager
David Andrews
Assistant County Manager
Allen Vann
County Attorney
Carl W. (Trey) Thurman
Staff Attorney
Patrick Buffkin

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S (NCDOT) APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S BRIDGE INVESTMENT PROGRAM (BIP) FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE CAPE FEAR MEMORIAL BRIDGE

WHEREAS, the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge, linking US 17, US 76, and US 421 over the Cape Fear River, has been an indispensable conduit for regional transportation and economic development;

WHEREAS, the replacement of the bridge adds an additional lane of capacity for the projected 94,900 vehicles per day that will travel it in 2050 compared to the 2023 base year counts of 65,200 vehicles per day.

WHEREAS, the replacement of the bridge also adds a 15' Multi-use path which will serve as the only bicycle and pedestrian connection between New Hanover County and Brunswick County, which does not currently exist today.

WHEREAS, the bridge is a critical element in facilitating freight movement to and from the Port of Wilmington, ranked number 1 as the most productive port in North America and 44th in the world for 2022, underlining its importance to the regional economy;

WHEREAS, assessments from the 2021 Routine Inspection Report designate the bridge as functionally obsolete;

WHEREAS, given the repeated financial investments for its rehabilitation, including \$15M in 2019 and an anticipated \$15M-\$20M in 2024, accompanied by a 20-week one-direction (10-weeks in each direction) traffic shutdown, there exists a pressing need for a holistic solution;

WHEREAS, the proposed alternatives and design considerations harmonize with both regional and statewide infrastructure development goals, ensuring sustained and efficient traffic flow on one of North Carolina's key Strategic Transportation Corridors;

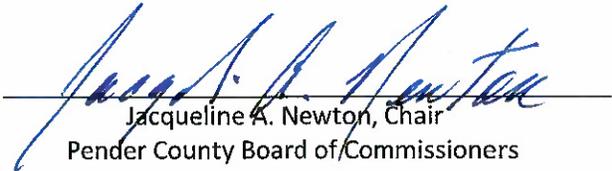
WHEREAS, the most recently available crash data, drawn from the bridge and its contiguous roadways, underscore the urgency of the situation, with trends consistently surpassing statewide crash metrics. The project is poised to mitigate these crash rates;

WHEREAS, beyond ameliorating current traffic and safety challenges, the replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge stands to stimulate regional economic resurgence, amplify the operational efficacy of the Port of Wilmington, and foster economic opportunities in neighboring underserved areas;

WHEREAS, this initiative holds pronounced potential environmental dividends, including a marked reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and bolstered infrastructure resilience against natural adversities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Pender County unequivocally expresses its support and endorsement for the NCDOT's application for Federal Discretionary Grants for the much-needed replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge.

Adopted and approved, this the 20th day of November, 2023.


Jacqueline A. Newton, Chair
Pender County Board of Commissioners

Attest: 
David Andrews, Clerk to the Board





1 ESTELL LEE PLACE, SUITE 201, WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28401
website: www.wilmingtonandbeaches.com ~ email: info@wilmingtonandbeaches.com
800.222.4757 office 910.341.4030 fax 910.341.4029

NEW HANOVER COUNTY TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S (NCDOT) APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S BRIDGE INVESTMENT PROGRAM (BIP) FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE CAPE FEAR MEMORIAL BRIDGE

WHEREAS, New Hanover County's tourism industry ranks 7th in visitor spending among North Carolina's 100 counties, generating more than \$1 Billion in visitor spending that supports 6,676 jobs, and contributes \$74.8 million to state and local tax bases (*"Economic Impact of Travel on N.C. Counties 2022," a study prepared for Visit NC by Tourism Economics in collaboration with U.S. Travel Association*);

WHEREAS, New Hanover County is primarily a drive-to travel destination with 90.9% of visitors arriving via personal vehicle (*"2020 Visitor Profile & Expenditure Study" based on travel March 2019-March 2020*);

WHEREAS, the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge, linking US 17, US 76, and US 421 over the Cape Fear River, has been an indispensable conduit for regional transportation and economic development, including tourism;

WHEREAS, the replacement of the bridge adds an additional lane of capacity for the projected 94,900 vehicles per day that will travel it in 2050 compared to the 2023 base year counts of 65,200 vehicles per day.

WHEREAS, the replacement of the bridge also adds a 15' Multi-use path which will serve as the only bicycle and pedestrian connection between New Hanover County and Brunswick County, which does not currently exist today.

WHEREAS, the bridge is a critical element in facilitating freight movement to and from the Port of Wilmington, ranked number 1 as the most productive port in North America and 44th in the world for 2022, underlining its importance to the regional economy;

WHEREAS, assessments from the 2021 Routine Inspection Report designate the bridge as functionally obsolete;

WHEREAS, given the repeated financial investments for its rehabilitation, including \$15M in 2019 and an anticipated \$15M-\$20M in 2024, accompanied by a 20-week one-direction (10-weeks in each direction) traffic shutdown, there exists a pressing imperative for a holistic solution;

WHEREAS, the proposed alternatives and design considerations harmonize with both regional and statewide infrastructure development goals, ensuring sustained and efficient traffic flow on one of North Carolina's key Strategic Transportation Corridors;

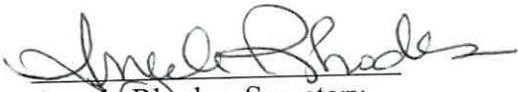
WHEREAS, the most recently available crash data, drawn from the bridge and its contiguous roadways, underscore the urgency of the situation, with trends consistently surpassing statewide crash metrics. The project is poised to mitigate these crash rates;

WHEREAS, beyond ameliorating current traffic and safety challenges, the replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge stands to stimulate regional economic resurgence, amplify the operational efficacy of the Port of Wilmington, and foster economic opportunities in neighboring underserved areas;

WHEREAS, this initiative holds pronounced potential environmental dividends, including a marked reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and bolstered infrastructure resilience against natural adversities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NEW HANOVER COUNTY TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY unequivocally expresses its support and endorsement for the NCDOT's application for Federal Discretionary Grants for the much-needed replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge.

ADOPTED at a Meeting of the Board of Directors of the New Hanover Tourism Development Authority [TDA] on October 25, 2023.


Angela Rhodes, Secretary
New Hanover County TDA

Attest:


Kim Hufham, President
New Hanover County TDA

RESOLUTION



Introduced by: Mike Kozlosky, WMPO Director

Date: October 26, 2023

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S (NCDOT) APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S BRIDGE INVESTMENT PROGRAM (BIP) FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE CAPE FEAR MEMORIAL BRIDGE

WHEREAS, the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge, linking US 17, US 76, and US 421 over the Cape Fear River, has been an indispensable conduit for regional transportation and economic development; and

WHEREAS, the replacement of the bridge adds an additional lane of capacity for the projected 94,900 vehicles per day that will travel it in 2050 compared to the 2023 base year counts of 65,200 vehicles per day; and

WHEREAS, the replacement of the bridge also adds a 15' Multi-use path which will serve as the only bicycle and pedestrian connection between New Hanover County and Brunswick County, which does not currently exist today; and

WHEREAS, the bridge is a critical element in facilitating freight movement to and from the Port of Wilmington, ranked number 1 as the most productive port in North America and 44th in the world for 2022, underlining its importance to the regional economy; and

WHEREAS, assessments from the 2021 Routine Inspection Report designate the bridge as functionally obsolete; and

WHEREAS, given the repeated financial investments for its rehabilitation, including \$15M in 2019 and an anticipated \$15M-\$20M in 2024, accompanied by a 20-week one-direction (10-weeks in each direction) traffic shutdown, there exists a pressing imperative for a holistic solution; and

WHEREAS, the proposed alternatives and design considerations harmonize with both regional and statewide infrastructure development goals, ensuring sustained and efficient traffic flow on one of North Carolina's key Strategic Transportation Corridors; and

WHEREAS, the most recently available crash data, drawn from the bridge and its contiguous roadways, underscore the urgency of the situation, with trends consistently surpassing statewide crash metrics. The project is poised to mitigate these crash rates; and

WHEREAS, beyond ameliorating current traffic and safety challenges, the replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge stands to stimulate regional economic resurgence, amplify the operational efficacy of the Port of Wilmington, and foster economic opportunities in neighboring underserved areas; and

WHEREAS, this initiative holds pronounced potential environmental dividends, including a marked reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and bolstered infrastructure resilience against natural adversities; and

WHEREAS, this bridge provides linkages and connections for various Wave Transit services and its replacement would be of benefit to the region's public transportation system; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Cape Fear Transportation Authority unequivocally expresses its support and endorsement for the NCDOT's application for Federal Discretionary Grants for the much-needed replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge.

ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority on October 26, 2023.



Tony Caudle, Chairman

Attest: 

Mark E. Hairr, Secretary



November 27, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Replacement – Application to Fiscal Years 2023 – 2026 Bridge Investment Program, Large Bridge Project Grants

Airport Authority

F. Spruill Thompson
Chairman

Nick Rhodes
Vice Chairman

Jason Thompson
Secretary

Wanda Copley

Faison B. Gibson

LeAnn Pierce

W. Lee Williams

Airport Director

Jeffrey Bourk, A.A.E.

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to voice Wilmington International Airport's (ILM) robust support for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT's) application for a Bridge Investment Program, Large Bridge Grant to help fund the replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge.

The bridge, serving as a junction for US 17, US 76, and US 421, connects New Hanover County to Brunswick County. It is an iconic fixture in our community, built over fifty years ago. But the bridge is now showing its age and is functionally obsolete. Recent inspections highlight the need for its replacement. Its current state, combined with significant growth expected in the region, make the replacement project imperative.

The proposed replacement is more than an infrastructure update. It will bring much needed operational and capacity improvements to meet existing and continuing transportation demands, as well as the region's first bicycle and pedestrian connection between Brunswick and New Hanover counties. The bridge is also a lifeline for the Port of Wilmington, a significant hub for our state's economic activities and the most efficient port in North America, according to the 2022 Container Port Performance Index.

Another notable advantage of the new design will be its environmental and safety benefits. The proposed alternatives and design considerations harmonize with both regional and statewide infrastructure development goals, ensuring sustained and efficient traffic flow on one of North Carolina's key Strategic Transportation Corridors.

The project is an opportunity to direct significant infrastructure investment in a historically disadvantaged community, with disproportionate numbers of low-income households surrounding the bridge. These communities face elevated natural hazard risks associated with flooding, and a new, more resilient bridge will serve a critical role in maintaining evacuation routes in case of an emergency.

ILM is a small hub airport in the National Airspace System. In 2023 ILM will be the fastest growing airport in North Carolina and the fourth fastest growing airport in the Nation (Calendar Year 2023 seat capacity increase year over year – airports with more than 500,000 enplanements annually). This infrastructure project is not only important to ILM, but the entire area.

Projects like the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Replacement exemplify the intent behind the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. This project is not just about improving connectivity but addressing historical inequities, bolstering the economy, and ensuring a sustainable future.

We earnestly request your consideration of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Replacement application for the receipt of MPDG grant funding.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeffrey P. Bourk".

Wilmington
International Airport
1740 Airport Blvd., Ste. 12
Wilmington, NC 28405

910.341.4333

flyilm.com

November 27, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg

United States Department of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE

Washington, DC 20590

W I L M I N G T O N



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
YOUR ADVOCATE

One Estell Lee Place
Wilmington, NC 28401

P (910) 762-2611
F (910) 762-9765

RE: Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Replacement – Application to Fiscal Years 2023 – 2026 Bridge Investment Program, Large Bridge Project Grants

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to voice the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce's robust support for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT's) application for a Bridge Investment Program, Large Bridge Grant to help fund the replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge.

The Wilmington Chamber of Commerce is distinguished as the first and longest continually operating chamber of commerce in North Carolina. Our chamber maintains a 154-year legacy of protecting and strengthening the Wilmington business community and helping businesses grow and thrive. We connect over 1,000 small, medium, and large businesses employing almost 50,000 citizens in the Wilmington region.

The bridge, serving as a junction for US 17, US 76, and US 421, connects New Hanover County to Brunswick County. It is an iconic fixture in our community, built over fifty years ago. But the bridge is now showing its age and is functionally obsolete. Recent inspections highlight the need for its replacement. Its current state, combined with significant growth expected in the region, make the replacement project imperative.

The proposed replacement is more than an infrastructure update. It will bring much needed operational and capacity improvements to meet existing and continuing transportation demands, as well as the region's first bicycle and pedestrian connection between Brunswick and New Hanover counties. The bridge is also a lifeline for the Port of Wilmington, a significant hub for our state's economic activities and the most efficient port in North America, according to the 2022 Container Port Performance Index.

Another notable advantage of the new design will be its environmental and safety benefits. The proposed alternatives and design considerations harmonize with both regional and statewide infrastructure development goals, ensuring sustained and efficient traffic flow on one of North Carolina's key Strategic Transportation Corridors.

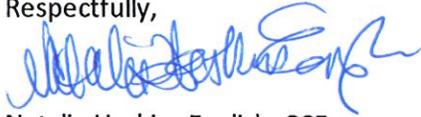
The bridge plays a key role in promoting our region's economic resurgence. It is critical to the success of the Port of Wilmington. The bridge's significance to our regional economy is directly tied to how it facilitates freight movements now and in the future. Additionally, the new design will positively impact the environment by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The anticipated improvements in traffic safety and the corresponding benefits for the region's residents.

The project is an opportunity to direct significant infrastructure investment in a historically disadvantaged community, with disproportionate numbers of low-income households surrounding the bridge. These communities face elevated natural hazard risks associated with flooding, and a new, more resilient bridge will serve a critical role in maintaining evacuation routes in case of an emergency.

Projects like the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Replacement exemplify the intent behind the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. This project is not just about improving connectivity but addressing historical inequities, bolstering the economy, and ensuring a sustainable future.

We earnestly request your consideration of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Replacement application for the receipt of MPDG grant funding.

Respectfully,



Natalie Haskins English, CCE
President and CEO



November 27, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Replacement – Application to Fiscal Years 2023 – 2026 Bridge Investment Program, Large Bridge Project Grants

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to voice Cape Fear Cyclist's robust support for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT's) application for a Bridge Investment Program, Large Bridge Grant to help fund the replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge. (CFMB)

Cape Fear Cyclists is a 400-member local bicycle club that hosts rides 5-6 times each week. We draw most of our members from New Hanover, Brunswick, and Pender Counties. The proposed bridge improvements that include a bicycle/pedestrian connection between New Hanover and Brunswick counties will add exciting options to our club rides. This path will also offer a safe way for riders to commute to work, school or downtown entertainment without using a car. Many of our club members try to commute to work by bicycle, but our current infrastructure makes that impossible for those who need to cross the Cape Fear River. We are confident that a safe pedestrian bridge crossing will boost bicycle ridership between downtown Wilmington and Brunswick County for both transportation and exercise.

The CFMB bridge serves as a junction for US 17, US 74, US 76, and US 421. It connects New Hanover County to Brunswick County; in fact, the only way to connect New Hanover and Brunswick County is by bridge or ferry. The CFMB is an iconic fixture in our community, built more than fifty years ago. But the bridge is now showing its age and is functionally obsolete. Recent inspections highlight the need for its replacement. Its current state, combined with significant growth expected in the region, make the replacement project imperative.

The proposed replacement is more than an infrastructure update. It will bring much needed operational and capacity improvements to meet existing and continuing transportation demands, as well as the *region's first bicycle and pedestrian connection between Brunswick and New Hanover counties*.

Another notable advantage of the new design will be its environmental and safety benefits. The proposed alternatives and design considerations harmonize with both regional and statewide infrastructure development goals, ensuring sustained and efficient traffic flow on one of North Carolina's key Strategic Transportation Corridors.

Projects like the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Replacement exemplify the intent behind the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. This project is not just about improving connectivity but addressing historical inequities, bolstering the economy, and ensuring a sustainable future.

We earnestly request your consideration of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Replacement application for the receipt of MPDG grant funding.

Respectfully,

Mark Johnnie

Mark Johnnie
President, Cape Fear Cyclists



November 27, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Replacement – Application to Fiscal Years 2023 – 2026 Bridge Investment Program, Large Bridge Project Grants

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to voice Terry Benjey Bicycle Foundation's (TBBF) robust support for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT's) application for a Bridge Investment Program, Large Bridge Grant to help fund the replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge. (CFMB)

The bridge, serving as a junction for US 17, US 76, and US 421, connects New Hanover County to Brunswick County. It is an iconic fixture in our community, built more than fifty years ago. But the bridge is now showing its age and is functionally obsolete. Recent inspections highlight the need for its replacement. Its current state, combined with significant growth expected in the region, make the replacement project imperative.

The proposed replacement is more than an infrastructure update. It will bring much needed operational and capacity improvements to meet existing and continuing transportation demands, as well as the *region's first bicycle and pedestrian connection between Brunswick and New Hanover counties*.

TBBF is working closely with the NC Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor's study group to create a culturally and environmentally significant pedestrian corridor from Navassa, NC to Southport NC. If the CFMB is funded with a new bike/ped connection to Brunswick County, this multi-use path will bring riders directly onto the Riverwalk in Belville, NC. That riverwalk is part of the NC Gullah Geechee Heritage Trail. The US Congress designated this trail as a National Heritage Area Program, and our goal is to support the trail's development as a place for learning, alternative transportation, and outdoor enjoyment.

The project is an opportunity to direct significant infrastructure investment in a historically disadvantaged community, such as Navassa, NC, with disproportionate numbers of low-income households surrounding the bridge. These communities face elevated natural hazard risks associated with flooding, and a new, more resilient bridge will serve a critical role in maintaining evacuation routes in case of an emergency.

Projects like the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Replacement exemplify the intent behind the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. This project is not just about improving connectivity but addressing historical inequities, bolstering the economy, and ensuring a sustainable future.

We earnestly request your consideration of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Replacement application for the receipt of MPDG grant funding.

Respectfully,

Eileen McConville

Eileen McConville
President, Terry Benjey Bicycling Foundation

November 9, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590



RE: Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Replacement – Application to Fiscal Years 2023 – 2026 Bridge Investment Program, Large Bridge Project Grants

Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to voice the support of the Southeastern North Carolina (SENCLand) Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's application for a Bridge Investment Program, Large Bridge Grant to help fund the replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge.

The bridge, serving as a junction for US 17, US 76, and US 421, connects New Hanover County to Brunswick County. It is an iconic fixture in our community, built over fifty years ago. The bridge is now showing its age and is functionally obsolete. Recent inspections highlight the need for its replacement. Its current state, combined with significant growth in the region, make the replacement project imperative.

The SENCLAND Chapter of MOAA has over 250 members that live in the region serviced by the existing bridge and we are very aware that it is inadequate for the transportation needs of our region. Additionally, because our organization's members are military veterans we understand the importance of this bridge to the Army, Marine Corps and Coast Guard installations in Southeastern North Carolina

The proposed replacement is more than an infrastructure update. It will bring much needed operational and capacity improvements to meet existing and continuing transportation demands, as well as the region's first bicycle and pedestrian connection between Brunswick and New Hanover counties. The bridge is also a lifeline for the Port of Wilmington, a significant hub for our state's economic activities and the most efficient port in North America, according to the 2022 Container Port Performance Index.

Another notable advantage of the new design will be its environmental and safety benefits. The proposed alternatives and design considerations harmonize with both regional and statewide infrastructure development goals, ensuring sustained and efficient traffic flow on one of North Carolina's key Strategic Transportation Corridors.

We earnestly request your consideration of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Replacement application for the receipt of MPDG grant funding.

Respectfully,

Joseph Irrera
President
Southeastern North Carolina (SENCLand) Chapter
Military Officers Association of America

November 14, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Replacement – Application to Fiscal Years 2023 – 2026 Bridge Investment Program, Large Bridge Project Grants

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to voice my support for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT's) application for a Bridge Investment Program, Large Bridge Grant to help fund the replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge.

This bridge, serving as a junction for US 17, US 76, and US 421, connects New Hanover County to Brunswick County. It is an iconic fixture in our community, built over fifty years ago. But the bridge is now showing its age and is functionally obsolete. Recent inspections highlight the need for its replacement. Its current state, combined with significant growth expected in the region, make the replacement project imperative.

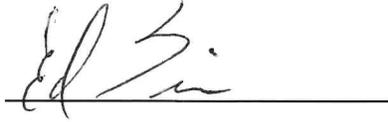
As you're aware, no single initiative improves the viability and future projections for a given region more so than effective transportation systems. Regardless of whether it's a daily commute, the delivery of good and services needed to sustain a local economy, or a link between urban and rural destinations, nothing feeds the lives of a population more so than a well-designed means of transportation. More importantly, it can be a unique way for communities to catapult themselves into a better future. The improvements being offered by this initiative would contribute to the health and well-being of the population by providing the region's first bicycle and pedestrian connection between Brunswick and New Hanover counties. It would fortify and enhance the Port of Wilmington, a significant hub for our state's economic activities and the most efficient port in North America, according to the 2022 Container Port Performance Index. But psychologically, it would make for a better, less stressful environment for all the citizens of the area that surround it simply by providing an improved means of traversing the region.

The Wilmington Metropolitan Area is one of North Carolina's key Strategic Transportation Corridors which touches the lives of those who are advantaged and disadvantaged economically. This project is an opportunity for a significant infrastructure investment within a community that is challenged, with disproportionate numbers of low-income households. It would connect rural to urban areas, support those who have jobs and those that are looking for employment, and allow those who relocate for one reason or another to do so without feeling cut-off from the infrastructure of the place they left. This new design would help address all those issues while contributing to personal safety and environmental issues that are more and more pressing every year.

In Commercial Real Estate there is always the opportunity to solely focus on bigger and more profitable real estate development efforts involving individuals with wealth and privilege. But there nothing as meaningful within any community as when those same individuals take up the task of doing more for the greater good, something our Chamber of Commerce and its leadership strive for. That is what we can do with this Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Investment Program. Yes, it demonstrates the intent behind the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, so it is politically viable, but it is also so much more. It is an opportunity to improve connectivity by addressing historical inequities, bolstering the economy, and

ensuring a sustainable future, and that is what I sincerely hope I've been able to convey with this letter. Therefore, I earnestly request your consideration of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Replacement application for the receipt of MPDG grant funding.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Trice", is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

Ed Trice

Sun Coast Partners Commercial

1430 Commonwealth Drive | Suite 102 | Wilmington, NC 28403

O: (910) 350-1200 M: (919) 810-5546

ed.trice@scpcommercial.com

November 27, 2023



The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Novant Health New Hanover
Regional Medical Center

2131 S. 17th Street
Wilmington, NC 28402

NovantHealth.org

RE: Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Replacement – Application to Fiscal Years 2023 – 2026 Bridge Investment Program, Large Bridge Project Grants

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to voice Novant Health's robust support for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT's) application for a Bridge Investment Program, Large Bridge Grant to help fund the replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge.

The bridge, serving as a junction for US 17, US 76, and US 421, connects New Hanover County to Brunswick County. This is a vital corridor for healthcare accessibility. Leland, North Carolina, is one of the fastest growing areas of the state. The population has quadrupled since 2009, and thousands of new homes are being developed. The town is just 9 miles from Novant Health New Hanover Regional Medical Center, a Level II trauma center in Wilmington. But the residents must cross the Cape Fear River to receive that life-saving care.

Having a modern bridge with free-flowing traffic is vital to our mission. In particular, our stroke center ranks among the best in the nation by providing life-saving, brain-saving care within 30 minutes. For the residents of Brunswick County, surviving a stroke and maintaining their ability to walk and talk is dependent on an ambulance reaching the hospital quickly. A modern bridge over the Cape Fear River will ensure they have a reliable, fast, safe route to the hospital.

The Cape Fear Memorial Bridge is an iconic fixture in our community, built over fifty years ago. But the bridge is now showing its age and is functionally obsolete. Recent inspections highlight the need for its replacement. Its current state, combined with significant growth expected in the region, make the replacement project imperative.

The proposed replacement is more than an infrastructure update. It will bring much needed operational and capacity improvements to meet existing and continuing transportation demands, as well as the region's first bicycle and pedestrian connection between Brunswick and New Hanover counties. The bridge is also a lifeline for the Port of Wilmington, a significant hub for our state's economic activities and the most efficient port in North America, according to the 2022 Container Port Performance Index.

Another notable advantage of the new design will be its environmental and safety benefits. The proposed alternatives and design considerations harmonize with both regional and statewide infrastructure development goals, ensuring sustained and efficient traffic flow on one of North Carolina's key Strategic Transportation Corridors.

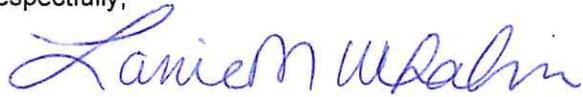
The project is an opportunity to direct significant infrastructure investment in a historically disadvantaged community, with disproportionate numbers of low-income households surrounding the bridge. These

communities face elevated natural hazard risks associated with flooding, and a new, more resilient bridge will serve a critical role in maintaining evacuation routes in case of an emergency.

Projects like the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Replacement exemplify the intent behind the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. This project is not just about improving connectivity but addressing historical inequities, bolstering the economy, and ensuring a sustainable future.

We earnestly request your consideration of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Replacement application for the receipt of MPDG grant funding.

Respectfully,



Laurie M. Whalin, PharmD
Chief Operating Officer
Novant Health New Hanover Regional Medical Center



November 17, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Replacement – Application to Fiscal Years 2023 – 2026 Bridge Investment Program, Large Bridge Project Grants

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to voice our region's robust support for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT's) application for a Bridge Investment Program, Large Bridge Grant to help fund the replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge.

The bridge, serving as a junction for US 17, US 76, and US 421, connects New Hanover County to Brunswick County. It is an iconic fixture in our community, built over fifty years ago. But the bridge is now showing its age and is functionally obsolete. Recent inspections highlight the need for its replacement. Its current state, combined with significant growth expected in the region, make the replacement project imperative.

The proposed replacement is more than an infrastructure update. It will bring much needed operational and capacity improvements to meet existing and continuing transportation demands, as well as the region's first bicycle and pedestrian connection between Brunswick and New Hanover counties. The bridge is also a lifeline for the Port of Wilmington, a significant hub for our state's economic activities and the most efficient port in North America, according to the 2022 Container Port Performance Index.

Another notable advantage of the new design will be its environmental and safety benefits. The proposed alternatives and design considerations harmonize with both regional and statewide infrastructure development goals, ensuring sustained and efficient traffic flow on one of North Carolina's key Strategic Transportation Corridors.

The project is an opportunity to direct significant infrastructure investment in a historically disadvantaged community, with disproportionate numbers of low-income households surrounding the bridge. These communities face elevated natural hazard risks associated with flooding, and a new, more resilient bridge will serve a critical role in maintaining evacuation routes in case of an emergency.

As a regional business advocacy organization, Business Alliance for a Sound Economy's mission is to support public policy that attracts a mix of business and industry and enhances economic opportunities in southeastern North Carolina. We work daily to support and promote initiatives that facilitate growth and investment in one of the fastest growing areas in the #1 state for business. Replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge is our region's #1 public policy priority.

Projects like the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Replacement exemplify the intent behind the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. This project is not just about improving connectivity but addressing historical inequities, bolstering the economy, and ensuring a sustainable future.

We earnestly request your consideration of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Replacement application for the receipt of MPDG grant funding.

Respectfully,

Tyler Newman

President & CEO

Business Alliance for a Sound Economy

Wilmington, North Carolina

Potential additions to be considered:

- The project's potential to serve a historically disadvantaged community (as defined by USDOT demographic indices) and integrate with the historic neighborhoods along the river in the City of Wilmington.
- The bridge's role in promoting regional economic resurgence and its importance to the Port of Wilmington.
- The positive environmental implications of the new design, including reduced greenhouse gas emissions.
- The anticipated improvements in traffic safety and the corresponding benefits for the region's residents.
- The importance of this bridge for facilitating freight movements, underpinning its significance to the regional economy.

**President**

Steve Mitchell, CCIM, ICSC

President-Elect

Amanda Parmer, ABR, C2EX

Vice President

Brittany Allen, C2EX

Past President

Ea Ruth, AHWD, C2EX, GRI, SFR, SRES

RCASENC

Kelly Stuart, RCA President

Nicholas Silivanch, RCA President-Elect

CFR DIRECTORS**Term Expires 2023**

Grayson Powell

Chris Royal, GRI

David Small

Term Expires 2024

Onyx Martin, Regional Director

Cynthia Remahl, SFR

Patrice Willetts, ABR, AHWD, C2EX,

GRI, SRES, SRS, SFR

Term Expires 2025

Clayton Hamerski, AHWD, E-PRO, PSA

Eric Knight, WHS

Manda Price

Chief Executive Officer

Anne Gardner, MBA, CAE, RCE

Organized

February 16, 1922

Chartered

June 2, 1924

Location

1826 Sir Tyler Drive, Suite 100

Wilmington, NC 28405

Phone (910) 762-7400

Fax (910) 762-9860

November 15, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Replacement – Application to Fiscal Years 2023 – 2026 Bridge Investment Program, Large Bridge Project Grants

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to voice Cape Fear REALTORS® robust support for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT's) application for a Bridge Investment Program, Large Bridge Grant to help fund the replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge.

The vertical lift bridge, serves as a major junction for US 17, US 76, and US 421, connecting New Hanover County to Brunswick County. It is an iconic fixture in our community, constructed over fifty years ago. However the bridge is now showing its age and is functionally obsolete. Recent inspections highlight the need for its replacement. Its current state, combined with significant growth expected in the region, make the replacement project imperative.

The proposed replacement is more than an infrastructure update. It will bring much needed operational and capacity improvements to meet existing and continuing transportation demands, as well as the region's first bicycle and pedestrian connection between Brunswick and New Hanover counties. The bridge is also a lifeline for the Port of Wilmington, a significant hub for our state's economic activities and the most efficient port in North America, according to the 2022 Container Port Performance Index.

Another notable advantage of the new design will be its environmental and safety benefits. The proposed alternatives and design considerations harmonize with both regional and statewide infrastructure development goals, ensuring sustained and efficient traffic flow on one of North Carolina's key Strategic Transportation Corridors.

The project is an opportunity to direct significant infrastructure investment in a historically disadvantaged community, with disproportionate numbers of low-income households surrounding the bridge. These communities face elevated natural hazard risks associated with flooding, and a new, more resilient bridge will serve a critical role in maintaining evacuation routes in case of an emergency.

Projects like the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Replacement exemplify the intent behind the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. This project is not just about improving connectivity but addressing historical inequities, bolstering the economy, and ensuring a sustainable future. We earnestly request your consideration of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Replacement application for the receipt of MPDG grant funding.

Respectfully,

Steve Mitchell
2023 CFR President

From: [Howell, Trace R](#)
To: [Dayton, Jeffrey](#); [Maletsky, Kiernan](#); [Belk, Gretchen V](#)
Cc: [Melvin, Caitlin M](#)
Subject: FW: [External] RE: Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Replacement – Application to Fiscal Years 2023 – 2026 Bridge Investment Program, Large Bridge Project Grants
Date: Monday, November 20, 2023 10:49:16 AM

CAUTION: [EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please see below letter of support from The BDK Management Group Inc.

Trace

From: Brandon & Deena Korman <tscwilmington@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2023 9:06 AM
To: Howell, Trace R <trhowell1@ncdot.gov>
Cc: Natalie English <english@wilmingtonchamber.org>; Megan Mullins <mullins@wilmingtonchamber.org>
Subject: [External] RE: Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Replacement – Application to Fiscal Years 2023 – 2026 Bridge Investment Program, Large Bridge Project Grants

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless verified. Report suspicious emails with the Report Message button located on your Outlook menu bar on the Home tab.

November 27, 2023
The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Replacement – Application to Fiscal Years 2023 – 2026 Bridge Investment Program, Large Bridge Project Grants

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to voice my robust support for the North Carolina Department of Transportations (NCDOT's) application for a Bridge Investment Program, Large Bridge Grant to help fund the replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge.

The bridge, serving as a junction for US 17, US 76, and US 421, connects New Hanover County to Brunswick County. It is an iconic fixture in our community, built over fifty years ago. But the bridge is now showing its age and is functionally obsolete. Recent inspections highlight the need for its replacement. Its current state, combined with significant growth expected in the region, make the replacement project imperative.

The proposed replacement is more than an infrastructure update. It will bring much-needed

operational and capacity improvements to meet existing and continuing transportation demands, as well as the region's first bicycle and pedestrian connection between Brunswick and New Hanover counties. The bridge is also a lifeline for the Port of Wilmington, a significant hub for our state's economic activities and the most efficient port in North America, according to the 2022 Container Port Performance Index.

Another notable advantage of the new design will be its environmental and safety benefits. The proposed alternatives and design considerations harmonize with both regional and statewide infrastructure development goals, ensuring sustained and efficient traffic flow on one of North Carolina's key Strategic Transportation Corridors.

A new, more resilient bridge will serve a critical role in maintaining evacuation routes in case of an emergency.

Projects like the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Replacement exemplify the intent behind the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. This project is not just about improving connectivity but addressing historical inequities, bolstering the economy, and ensuring a sustainable future.

I earnestly request your consideration of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Replacement application for the receipt of MPDG grant funding.

Respectfully,

Brandon Korman

--

Brandon and Deena Korman

The BDK Management Group Inc.

Co-owners

P. 516-655-4010

tscwilmington@gmail.com

tscwilmcatering@gmail.com

tropicalsmoothiecafe.com



Facebook: [Facebook](#)

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LinkedIn: [LinkedIn](#)

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November 17, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Replacement – Application to Fiscal Years 2023 – 2026 Bridge Investment Program, Large Bridge Project Grants

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to voice my support for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT's) application for a Bridge Investment Program, Large Bridge Grant to help fund the replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge.

The bridge serves US 17, US 76, and US 421, connects New Hanover County to Brunswick County. It was built over fifty years ago. I served on the Department of Transportation Board (under Governor Jim Hunt) and it was a grade F (over 16 years ago) Our region is growing so fast and the bridge is so old we make the replacement project imperative.

The proposed replacement is more than an infrastructure update. It will bring much needed operational and capacity improvements to meet existing and continuing transportation demands, as well as the region's first bicycle and pedestrian connection between Brunswick and New Hanover counties.

Potential additions to be considered:

- The project's potential to serve a historically disadvantaged community (as defined by USDOT demographic indices) and integrate with the historic neighborhoods along the river in the City of Wilmington.
- The bridge's role in promoting regional economic resurgence and its importance to the Port of Wilmington.
- The positive environmental implications of the new design, including reduced greenhouse gas emissions.
- The anticipated improvements in traffic safety and the corresponding benefits for the region's residents.
- The importance of this bridge for facilitating freight movements, underpinning its significance to the regional economy.

Having served on the NC State Ports board for eight year and as Vice President the bridge for the Port of Wilmington is significant for our state's economic activities and the most efficient port in North America, according to the 2022 Container Port Performance Index.

Another notable advantage of the new design will be its environmental and safety benefits. The proposed alternatives and design considerations harmonize with both regional and statewide infrastructure development goals, ensuring sustained and efficient traffic flow on one of North Carolina's key Strategic Transportation Corridors.

The project is an opportunity to direct significant infrastructure investment in a historically disadvantaged community, with disproportionate numbers of low-income households surrounding the bridge. These

communities face elevated natural hazard risks associated with flooding, and a new, more resilient bridge will serve a critical role in maintaining evacuation routes in case of an emergency.

New Hanover County and Brunswick County is growing so fast I have to wonder how long this bridge will last in its current state. New Hanover County is a tourism county. We have tourist coming in daily over the bridge.

I am asking for your consideration and support of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Replacement application for the receipt of MPDG grant funding.

Respectfully,

Louise McColl

Louise F. McColl