



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
US ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND  
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON, FORT BRAGG  
2175 REILLY ROAD, STOP A  
FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA 28310-5000

July 12, 2019

Secretary James H. Trogon III  
North Carolina Department of Transportation  
1501 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1501

Dear Secretary Trogon:

Please accept this letter of support for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT's) *improving Bragg Roads and Access for Greater Growth* Project ("iBRAGG" or "the Project" hereafter) application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's BUILD Program. The iBRAGG Project will reconstruct the loop road network located outside the gates of the secure area on the Fort Bragg military reservation to bring them back to a state of good repair, enhancing rural-urban connectivity, increasing road safety, building broadband capabilities, and making the network more resilient. The Project will facilitate the upgrade of roadway maintenance in the rural vicinity of the base, yielding long-term travel time, cost savings, and improved safety and design for base and non-base users, among other benefits. The Project is an important step forward to connecting rural and urban North Carolina by rebuilding the road infrastructure.

Fort Bragg is the core of the nation's current Global Response Force, as well as an economic anchor for the Fayetteville metropolitan area. Over time, these two economic centers are becoming more integrated through a shared labor pool, contracting, and coordination of public services and activities. As a result, the roads now carry more traffic than originally envisioned. The roads are currently used by the public for non-installation related travel, as well as for traffic to and from the installation. Cut-through traffic, travel for which the installation is neither an origin nor a destination, has grown in recent years as travelers use the surrounding roads to avoid nearby congested arterials. Consequently, a rising volume of travel comprised of non-installation related trips are being made on poorly maintained roads that do not meet NCDOT's current standards. The transfer of operating and maintenance responsibilities from Fort Bragg to NCDOT, through an easement, shifts this activity to the agency that is better able to maintain the roads to a higher quality more efficiently.

The Project will allow for the transfer of road operation and maintenance to NCDOT according to a Memorandum of Agreement signed by the U.S. Army Garrison (USAG) Fort Bragg and the NCDOT. As part of the agreement, Fort Bragg will petition the NCDOT to add the roads to the State Highway System. This addition will be accomplished in accordance with NCDOT road addition procedures, which includes approval by the NCDOT Board of Transportation. Bringing the roads into a state of good repair consistent with current state standards is another condition of making the transfer.

iBRAGG addresses multiple evaluation criteria for the BUILD program. At its core, this BUILD grant application is aligned with North Carolina's plan to enhance rural-urban economic connectivity, in addition to improving the state of good repair and increasing safety, technology investments, and resiliency. NCDOT and the USAG Fort Bragg commit to bringing the roads into a state of good repair consistent with current state standards, making the transfer a prudent investment that will increase the return on federal investments and proactively protect existing transportation assets.

Over 50,000 Military and 22,500 Civilians work on Fort Bragg, earning \$3.7B in pay. Including the 128,000 Retirees and Family Members, nearly 200,000 individuals live and work on Fort Bragg and the surrounding communities. Fort Bragg's estimated direct and indirect economic impact on the surrounding areas totaled \$6.9B in 2018. iBRAGG will make the roads safer and easier for the members of Fort Bragg to visit the local communities, thereby helping with their economies.

For these reasons, we strongly urge you to support the ***improving Bragg Roads and Access for Greater Growth*** Project and the NCDOT's application for federal BUILD grant funding to accelerate its construction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phillip D. Sounia", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Phillip D. Sounia  
Colonel, U.S. Army  
Garrison Commander  
Fort Bragg, North Carolina