



September 12, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

We are writing, on behalf of Radius Capital Partners, to offer our support for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT's) *I-85/I-40 Foundations for Safer and Automated Transportation (FAST)* application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's BUILD Program.

Two of us reside along these corridors and we know that the I-85/I-40 corridor is critical to east-west long-distance travel regionally and is vital for local trips between three of North Carolina's major metropolitan areas. This project, when combined with other recent grant applications, demonstrates how complementary investments and a coordinated strategy can improve corridor performance, user safety, freight mobility, and digital connectivity of communities in central North Carolina.

We understand well how the project elements will benefit the transportation system in the state:

1. It will support the interconnection of freight facilities along a heavily used corridor;
2. It will support additional deployments of connected and automated vehicle technology.
3. It will introduce new state-of-the art technology to improve traffic safety by focusing on risky driver behavior and non-ideal road conditions.

Most important from our perspective, it provides the potential for improved cutting-edge broadband access to both urban and rural communities along the corridor. Radius is actively engaged in bringing broadband access to unserved and underserved areas in North Carolina. A DOT assisted fiber backbone will greatly enhance our efforts and those of like-minded companies.

These are just a few of the many reasons we strongly support the NCDOT I-85 / I-40 application. We fully endorse the plans and goals of the project and will work with NCDOT as needed during the implementation and operation phases of the project.

Thank you for your consideration of this BUILD grant request from NCDOT. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact Gene Conti at gconti@radiuscapitalpartners.com, or at 919 345-8764.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gene A. Conti".

Dr. Gene Conti
Member, Advisory Board

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gopi Sundaram".

Gopi Sundaram
Managing Partner

Bcc: David Jones, NCDOT