



North Carolina Department of Public Safety

State Highway Patrol

Roy Cooper, Governor
Erik A. Hooks, Secretary

Glenn M. McNeill, Jr.
Commander

August 2, 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) *I85/I40 Foundations for Automated and Safer Transportation* application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's BUILD Program.

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 how the project elements will benefit the transportation system in the state:

1. Completes the NCDOT fiber-optic backbone from Raleigh to Charlotte, allowing operations personnel and first responders immediate and reliable access to a variety of traffic management systems.
2. Supports the eventual interconnection of freight facilities.
3. Supports the deployment of connected and automated vehicle technology.
4. Introduces new state-of-the art technology to improve traffic safety along the heavily traveled corridor, by focusing on risky driver behavior and non-ideal road conditions.
5. Provides the potential for improved cutting-edge broadband access to both urban and rural communities along the corridor.

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.

For these reasons, we strongly urge you to support the **I85/I40 Foundations for Automated and Safer Transportation** Project and the NCDOT's application for federal BUILD grant funding to accelerate its construction.

Sincerely,

Glenn M. McNeill, Jr.
Commander

GMM:jdd

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