



LRCOG

Lumber River Council of Governments
30 C J Walker Road, COMtech Park
Pembroke, North Carolina 28372-7340
Tel. (910) 618-5533 • Fax (910) 521-7556
E-mail: lrcog@lumberrivercog.org
Website: www.lumberrivercog.org

July 30, 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) ***I-95 Resiliency and Innovative Technology Improvements Project*** application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's 2019 BUILD Program. The Project is a keystone of a much larger multi-year strategy to reconstruct North Carolina's transportation network to be safer and more resilient, utilizing state-of-the-art technologies to increase performance and accommodate current and future travel demands. The result will be transformational for the performance of the transportation system, as well as the economy of eastern North Carolina, a region that has lagged the rest of the state's economic expansion.

The I-95 Corridor is critical to long-distance travel along the East Coast and is vital for local trips within North Carolina. This corridor is located along the eastern seaboard and has multiple river crossings. As such, it is vulnerable to flooding with its current design.

The Project proposes to widen 27 miles of I-95 to eight (8) lanes, from Exit 13 to Exit 40 between Lumberton and Fayetteville and to raise two bridges near Lumberton and several low-lying portions of the road that are susceptible to flooding. It also includes state-of-the-art flood monitoring technology and expands the broadband infrastructure to manage evacuation routes in real time. During periods of evacuation, I-95 must be able to accommodate traffic from other states such as Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina. In addition, the I-95 corridor is designated as part of the National Highway System (NHS) Strategic Highway Network (STRAHNET). By reconstructing I-95 at its southern stretch in North Carolina to be more resilient, this BUILD Project directly responds to one of the recommendations of the state's *Hurricane Florence Recovery Recommendations* report, developed by the North Carolina State Office of Management and Budget at the direction of Governor Cooper.

For these reasons, the Lumber River RPO strongly urges you to support the ***I-95 Resiliency and Innovative Technology Improvements Project*** and the NCDOT's application for federal BUILD grant funding to accelerate its construction.

Sincerely,


Janet F. Robertson
Lumber River RPO Secretary

Member Governments

BLADEN COUNTY

Bladenboro • Clarkton • Dublin
East Arcadia • Elizabethtown
Tar Heel • White Lake

HOKE COUNTY

Raeford

RICHMOND COUNTY

Dobbins Heights • Ellerbe • Hamlet
Hoffman • Norman
Rockingham

SCOTLAND COUNTY

Gibson • Laurinburg • Wagram

ROBESON COUNTY

Fairmont • Lumber Bridge • Lumberton
Marietta • Maxton • McDonald
Orrum • Parkton • Pembroke
Proctorville • Red Springs • Rennert
Rowland • St. Pauls

Equal Opportunity Employer