



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

J. ERIC BOYETTE
SECRETARY

May 14, 2020

Secretary Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Continuing Corridor K: Connecting People, Goods and Services Project (Project) is a critical rural project for the Graham County regional community and is aligned with the Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success (ROUTES) initiative to address disparities in rural transportation infrastructure. The Project is critical to long-distance travel in and from western North Carolina to surrounding counties and is vital for local trips within Graham County. The Project will improve connectivity for local and commercial traffic that moves through the area. Increased connectivity is crucial for residents who must travel out of the county for jobs, education, healthcare, and other vital services, as well as for commercial traffic which use these roads to transport goods in and out of North Carolina. These improvements will bring about economic benefits for a rural county with a declining workforce.

In accordance with the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program guidance, the North Carolina Department of Transportation is requesting a waiver from the local non-federal match requirement, as permitted for rural projects. The other funding source for the Project, the Appalachian Development Highway System (ADHS), is providing nearly \$151.7M toward the Project. However, as a Federal funding source, the ADHS's funds cannot be counted as state or local match.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Eric Boyette".

J. Eric Boyette
Secretary

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