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N.C. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

May 11, 2020

Secretary J. Eric Boyette
North Carolina Department of Transportation
1501 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1501

Dear Secretary Boyette:

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. iBRAGG proposes to repair and rehabilitate the loop road network located outside the gates of the secure area on the U.S. Army Garrison (USAG) Fort Bragg. The goal of this Project is to bring the roads back into a state of good repair, enhancing rural-urban connectivity, increasing road safety, eliminating traffic detours, enhancing emergency services response, and making the regional road network more resilient. The Project will facilitate the upgrade of roadway maintenance in the rural area of USAG Fort Bragg in the Fayetteville metropolitan area, yielding long-term travel time and cost savings, as well as 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 Eastern North Carolina by rebuilding the road network infrastructure.

Fort Bragg is an economic anchor for the Fayetteville metropolitan area with an annual economic impact of \$6.9 billion, and supports a population of over 276,000 military members, Department of Defense civilians and contract employees, retirees, and family members. Over time, Fort Bragg is becoming more integrated into the regional economy through a shared labor pool, contracting, and coordination of public services and activities. As the region has grown, roads originally built to support the Army's training activities now carry more traffic than originally envisioned. Consequently, a rising volume of travel comprised of non-base related trips are being made on poorly maintained roads that do not meet NCDOT standards. The transfer of operating and maintenance responsibilities from Fort Bragg to NCDOT will shift this activity to the agency that is better able to maintain the roads to a higher quality more efficiently.

The Project will enable NCDOT to perform future construction, maintenance, and repair services for the subject roads, pursuant to the Intergovernmental Support Agreement and Memorandum of Agreement signed by the Commander of the USAG Fort Bragg and the Secretary of NCDOT on May 2, 2019. A condition of the agreement is that the Project roads are brought into a state of good repair, consistent with NCDOT standards. By enabling NCDOT to perform ongoing roadway services, USAG Fort Bragg will realize a 40 percent reduction in costs per year and the traveling public will enjoy well maintained roads.

MITCH COLVIN, MAYOR
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For these reasons and more, the City of Fayetteville strongly supports 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 'Mitch Colvin', written over a horizontal line.

Mitch Colvin
Mayor

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