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May 6, 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.

This 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 the core of the nation's current Global Response Force, as well as an economic anchor for the Fayetteville metropolitan area. Fort Bragg has 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. As the region has grown, roads originally built to support the Army's training activities now carry more traffic than originally envisioned. The roads are currently used by the public as commuter routes for destinations within Fort Bragg, as well as the larger metropolitan area. Consequently, a rising volume of travel comprised of base and non-base related trips are being made on 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 suited to maintain these roads to a higher standard level of quality.

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 be brought into a state of good

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repair, consistent with NCDOT standards. By enabling NCDOT to perform ongoing roadway services, USAG Fort Bragg and the traveling public will benefit greatly with well-maintained roads by NCDOT.

For these reasons, we strongly support 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,

W. Marshall Faircloth, Chairman
Cumberland County Board of Commissioners