



The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

The *improving Bragg Roads and Access for Greater Growth* Project (iBRAGG) Project is a critical rural project for the Fayetteville regional community and is aligned with the Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success (ROUTES) initiative to address disparities in rural transportation infrastructure. If implemented, the iBRAGG Project will enable the transfer of approximately 47 miles of Fort Bragg roadway network to the North Carolina State Highway System. Thereafter, North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) will be responsible for future construction, maintenance and repair activities. This transfer shifts these responsibilities to an agency that is better equipped to maintain roads to a higher quality at a lower cost. A Memorandum Of Agreement and an Intergovernmental Support Agreement have been signed by both NCDOT and United States Army Garrison, Fort Bragg (Fort Bragg) and are provided in the supplemental materials included with this application.

In accordance with the *Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development* (BUILD) program guidance, we are requesting a waiver from the local non-federal match requirement, as permitted for rural projects. Our funding partner, in this instance, Fort Bragg itself, is providing \$3.4 million in funding. However, as a military installation, Fort Bragg's funding cannot be counted as state or local match.

Thank you for considering our application. Please do not hesitate to contact me at jstrickland@co.cumberland.nc.us or 910-678-7622.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joel Strickland', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joel Strickland