



APEX POLICE DEPARTMENT

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June 12, 2020

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing on behalf of the Apex Police Department to offer our support for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT's) I-85/I-40/NC-540 Foundations for Safer and Automated Transportation (FAST) application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's BUILD Program.

The I-85/I-40/NC-540 corridor is critical to east-west, long-distance regional travel and is vital for local trips between North Carolina's three major metropolitan areas. The overall FAST project contains many elements that will benefit the traveling public, including completion of the corridor's fiber-optic backbone, and a package of cutting-edge safety systems along the route.

This project, in conjunction with similar grant applications in the past three years, demonstrates how complementary investments and a coordinated strategy can improve user safety, corridor performance, freight mobility, and digital connectivity of communities in central North Carolina.

As a significant component of the project, wrong-way driver countermeasures included within the BUILD grant application will be constructed at all off-ramps for the existing Triangle Expressway (also known as Toll NC-540) and the 20+ mile extension of the Triangle Expressway to the south of the Raleigh area between Holly Springs and Garner.

Once the entire 540 loop is complete, the Triangle Expressway will span over 40 miles around the capital region. The expressway will provide transportation through three counties and numerous cities and towns, including Garner, Holly Springs, Apex, Cary, Morrisville, and Durham. Wrong-way drivers entering the toll road have the potential to impact the traveling public and first responders along the entire corridor, especially in these highly populated areas. The BUILD grant funding will contribute to both community and regional safety by reducing the possibility of high-speed, wrong-way driver crashes, which statistically have a much higher fatality rate than average freeway crashes.



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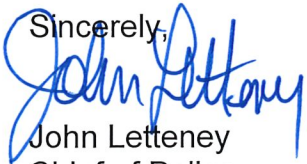


NCTA coordinates a strong partnership with local agencies and first responders for highway operations, traffic management, highway safety and incident management. The wrong-way driver countermeasures in the BUILD project will become an important element of this partnership.

A portion of NC-540 runs directly through the Town of Apex, with several on and off-ramps in our community. Improving traffic safety in our community is an on-going goal and objective in our department's Multi-Year Strategic Plan. The BUILD project will put another measure in place to improve the safety of NC-540 through Apex, assisting us with protecting our residents, visitors, employees and first responders who use and/or respond to incidents on this roadway. For these reasons, we strongly support the NCDOT I-85/I-40/NC-540 application. We fully endorse the plans and goals of the project and will work with NCDOT and NCTA as needed during the implementation and operation phases of the project.

Thank you for your consideration of this BUILD grant request from NCDOT. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact Captain Eric Buchanan at Eric.Buchanan@apexnc.org or at 919-249-3455.

Sincerely,



John Letteney
Chief of Police
Apex Police Department

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cc: Captain Eric Buchanan
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