



June 2, 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 Greensboro Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (GUAMPO), 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 travel regionally and is vital for local trips between three of North Carolina's major metropolitan areas. This project, when combined with other recent grant applications, demonstrates how complementary investments and a coordinated strategy can improve corridor performance, user safety, freight mobility, and digital connectivity of communities in central North Carolina.

We understand the how the project elements will benefit the transportation system in the state:

1. Completes the NCDOT fiber-optic backbone from Raleigh to Charlotte, allowing operations personnel and first responders immediate and reliable access to a variety of traffic management systems.
2. Supports the eventual interconnection of freight facilities.
3. Supports the deployment of connected and automated vehicle technology.
4. Introduces new state-of-the art technology to improve traffic safety along the heavily traveled corridor, by focusing on risky driver behavior and non-ideal road conditions. For example, the project deploys counter-measures at selected interchanges to deter wrong-way driving onto our freeways.
5. Provides the potential for improved cutting-edge broadband access to both urban and rural communities along the corridor.

The GUAMPO is responsible for transportation planning for a majority of Guilford County and coordinates planning efforts with NCDOT and neighboring RPO, three MPO's and one regional transportation authority. Enhancing transportation safety is paramount in our efforts to expand and improve area transportation systems, as reflected in the City of Greensboro Vision Zero Action Plan. The MPO and the City of Greensboro also have a long track record of supporting and implementing ITS and advanced signal system technologies, and are actively pursuing smart cities

Planning for the transportation future

technology applications for the future. The I-85/I-40/NC-540 project proposal would complement and connect to these efforts, and the MPO and City of Greensboro support it fully.

These are just a few of the many 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 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 Chris Werner, PE at cmwerner@ncdot.gov or at 919-707-2540.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marikay Abuzuaiter". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Marikay Abuzuaiter, Chair

Greensboro Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

Cc: Andrew McOmber

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