



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 CenturyLink 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 North Carolina.

We understand the proposed project will benefit the transportation system in several ways including:

1. Completing the NCDOT fiber-optic backbone from Raleigh to Charlotte, allowing operations personnel and first responders reliable access to a variety of traffic management systems.
2. Supporting the eventual interconnection of freight facilities.
3. Supporting the deployment of connected and automated vehicle technology.
4. Introducing 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 would deploy countermeasures at selected interchanges to deter wrong way driving.
5. Providing the potential for additional broadband access along the corridor.

These are just a few of the reasons we support the NCDOT I-85/I-40/NC-540 application. Thank you for your consideration of this grant request from NCDOT. If you have additional questions about the proposed project, please feel free to contact Chris Werner, PE at cmwerner@ncdot.gov or at 919-707-2540.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "St K. Brewer".

Steven K. Brewer

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