



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:

June 10, 2020

I am writing, on behalf of Pike Telecom and Renewables, LLC, 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:

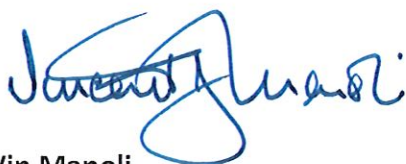
1. Completes the NCDOT fiber-optic backbone from Raleigh to Charlotte, allowing operations personnel and first responders immediate and reliable access to a variety of traffic management systems.
2. Supports the eventual interconnection of freight facilities.
3. Supports the deployment of connected and 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.

Furthermore, Pike Telecom and our parent company, Pike Corporation, see tremendous value in this initiative. Pike is headquartered in Mount Airy, with several offices in Raleigh, Wilmington, Charlotte, NC, and nearby Fort Mill, SC. Overall, we employ approximately 10,000 full-time employees across the southeastern United States. Since Pike's inception in 1945, we have been committed to protecting the health and safety of our employees, our customers, and the communities in which we operate. And we're excited to endorse this program that will increase highway safety, improve traffic flow, and provide enhanced travel services in this important corridor.

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,



Vin Manoli

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