



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

J. ERIC BOYETTE
SECRETARY

May 18, 2020

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

Subject: Certification of Financial Contribution BUILD Grant Application:
I-85/I-40/NC-540 Foundations for Automated and Safer Transportation

Dear Secretary Chao:

The North Carolina Turnpike Authority (NCTA), wishes to express its full support for the I-85/I-40/NC-540 Foundations for Automated and Safer Transportation project under the United States Department of Transportation's Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program.

The project will complete the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT's) fiber-optic trunk line connection between the state's two largest metropolitan areas and associated Traffic Management Centers. This connection would provide an immediate transportation safety and communications benefit to NCDOT, NCTA, and the travelling public. These proposed improvements are reflected in NCTA's mission statement:

The North Carolina Turnpike Authority is committed to delivering innovative transportation solutions, on behalf of local planning organizations, providing drivers more choices for their commute.

This project will provide lasting benefits to the state to support its future transportation endeavors and protect North Carolina's citizens, including:

- The facilitation of connected and automated vehicle technology
- The addition of new life saving safety systems to deter wrong-way drivers and curve departure crashes
- The support of integrated corridor management by adding technology to interstate alternate routes
- The creation of opportunities to lease NCDOT communications infrastructure to the private sector
- The implementation of state-of-the-art advanced analytics to detect dangerous behavior and conditions on the interstate

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As demonstrated in the project narrative, the project will be of great benefit to NCTA in two specific areas:

- The completion of the fiber-optic trunk line from Raleigh to Charlotte (Component One) will reduce NCTA dependence on expensive leased-line facilities to transmit traffic management and toll system related data from our Charlotte facilities to the NC Quick Pass Operations Center located in Morrisville, NC.
- The Triangle Expressway wrong-way driver countermeasures (Component Five) will span across a 40-mile corridor, located along the western and southern portion of Raleigh's outer beltline, which spans 40 miles of the Triangle. After completion of the 20+ mile extension of the Expressway, currently under construction, the roadway will provide a high-speed transportation option through three counties and numerous cities and towns, including Garner, Holly Springs, Apex, Cary, Morrisville, and Durham. 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. In addition, lower operational costs from first responders will result from the increased turnaround rate of wrong-way drivers.

To that end, the NCTA will fund the I-85/I-40/NC-540 Foundations for Automated and Safer Transportation project in the amount of \$2,500,000.00 towards a successful BUILD grant from Triangle Expressway System project funds.

Thank you for your consideration of the I-85/I-40/NC-540 Foundations for Automated and Safer Transportation project for the 2020 BUILD Discretionary Grant Program.

If NCTA can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (919) 707-2729 or via e-mail at dwroy@ncdot.gov.

Sincerely,



David Roy
Chief Financial Officer
North Carolina Turnpike Authority