



January 7, 2025

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

To Whom It May Concern:

Please allow this correspondence to express Stanly County's strong support for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT's) **Bridges not Barriers – A collaborative Bridge Bundle Replacement Project** ("the Project" hereafter) application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program. The Project offers an opportunity to replace fifteen (15) bridges maintained by NCDOT across Division 10 in North Carolina. Division 10 is comprised of Anson, Cabarrus, Mecklenburg, Stanly, and Union counties. The Project is part of a coordinated effort to replace primarily rural bridges in disadvantaged communities.

The Project focuses on the replacement of bridges with a variety of issues including flooding, drift, and/or scour. Four (4) of the bridges are low water bridges and are susceptible to extreme weather events. Eleven (11) bridges are load posted and nine (9) of the bridges experience flooding. Nine (9) bridges experience scour, and five (5) experience significant drift that must be regularly cleared out, significantly increasing operational cost. The bridges range from 42 years to 80 years, with sufficiency ratings between 37 and 73 percent.

The Project will provide an opportunity to replace aged bridges that otherwise might not be replaced in a timely manner due to their prioritization level compared to other bridge projects in the Division. The removal of recurring flooding, scour, and drift issues will reduce regular maintenance. This will allow NCDOT to stretch resources further and allocate them to other areas in need across the Division and State.

Furthermore, the implementation of the Project is expected to foster increased accessibility and enhance emergency response unburdened by detours in the event of extreme weather events. These bridge replacements are extremely important to the community and region, as well as benefit impoverished residents within the project area. In fact, four (4) bridges are located within disadvantaged census tracts and six (6) are located within Areas of Persistent Poverty.

For these reasons, Stanly County strongly supports the **Bridges not Barriers – A collaborative Bridge Bundle Replacement Project** and the NCDOT's application for federal Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Grant Program funding to accelerate construction.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew M. Lucas', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Andrew M. Lucas  
County Manager

P| 704.986.3600

F| 704.986.3133

[www.stanlycountync.gov](http://www.stanlycountync.gov)

County Manager's Office

1000 N. First Street, Suite 10A, Albemarle, NC 28001