



North Carolina General Assembly
Senate

SENATOR CARL FORD
SENATE REPUBLICAN JOINT CAUCUS LEADER
33RD DISTRICT

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COMMITTEES:

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PENSIONS AND RETIREMENT AND AGING—CHAIRMAN
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT—CHAIRMAN
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GOVERNMENT
MUNICIPAL INCORPORATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE JOINT
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

January 28, 2025

Secretary Sean Duffy
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: BUILD Grant Letter of Support

Dear Secretary Duffy,

The Office of Senator Carl Ford is pleased to send a letter of support for the Town of East Spencer’s application to the U.S. Department of Transportation for a Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant to support the construction conversion of Correll Street/McCanless Road from an underpass to an interchange on I-85 in Rowan County.

The East Spencer Interchange for a Growth Nexus (DESIGN) project is an opportunity to address transportation barriers and economic challenges the town is facing. The town is basically cut off from communities to the West of the railroad, to the East of Town Creek, and without direct connections to the South. They’ve had to rely on Long Street to access the adjacent communities. Town residents will benefit from a direct access from I-85, and it will decrease traffic on Long Street and a better access to Hanford-Dole Elementary School. This grant is an opportunity to transform East Spencer and open pathways to economic wealth for the residents.

Thank you for your consideration to this invaluable project which will bring a significant impact to the community and Rowan County.

Sincerely,

Senator Carl Ford
North Carolina Senate





North Carolina General Assembly
House of Representatives

REPRESENTATIVE HARRY WARREN
ROWAN COUNTY - 77TH DISTRICT
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COMMITTEES:
GOVERNMENT, VICE-CHAIR
COMMERCE AND JOB DEVELOPMENT
COMMERCE AND JOB DEVELOPMENT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE
CONTROL
EDUCATION
FINANCE
INSURANCE
PUBLIC UTILITIES

January 27, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Duffy,

I would like to express my wholehearted support for the Town of East Spencer's application to the U.S. Department of Transportation for a Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant. As a State Representative for Rowan County, I support the construction conversion of Correll Street/McCanless Road from an underpass to an interchange on I-85 in Rowan County. I believe this project offers a significant opportunity to correct future traffic issues and to overall improve the infrastructure in East Spencer.

The East Spencer Interchange for a Growth Nexus (DESIGN) project offers a vital opportunity to tackle the long-standing transportation and economic issues that the Town faces. This initiative is essential for overcoming East Spencer's transportation obstacles. The Town was isolated from neighboring communities due to barriers such as the railroad to the west, Town Creek to the east, and no direct routes to the south. Residents have depended on Long Street for access to the surrounding areas.

The DESIGN project will provide East Spencer with the tools needed to confront many of its mobility and economic challenges. Residents will gain improved access to I-85, which will alleviate traffic on Long Street,

lessening the load on this aging roadway and making it safer for cyclists and pedestrians. Furthermore, with funding secured for the interchange, the Town can also foster better access to jobs and Hanford-Dole Elementary School. This grant represents a transformative opportunity for East Spencer, allowing it to create new avenues for economic growth for its community members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harry Warren". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "H".

Representative Harry Warren
NC House of Representatives
District 76, Rowan County

Greg Edds, Chairman
Jim Greene, Vice-Chairman
Mike Caskey
Judy Klusman
Craig Pierce



Aaron Church, County Manager
Carolyn Barger, Clerk to the Board
John W. Dees, II, County Attorney

Rowan County Board of Commissioners

130 West Innes Street • Salisbury, NC 28144
Telephone 704-216-8180 • FAX 704-216-8195

Secretary Sean Duffy
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: BUILD Grant Letter of Support

Dear Secretary Duffy:

The Rowan County Board of Commissioners strongly supports the Town of East Spencer's application to the U.S. Department of Transportation for a BUILD grant opportunity to support the construction conversion of Correll Street/McCanless Road from an underpass to an interchange on I-85 in Rowan County.

East Spencer is one of the valued communities that makes up Rowan County. In the past, East Spencer has suffered from persistent poverty, lack of residential and industrial growth, and transportation issues. For decades they have had significant economic challenges.

But today, for the first time in a generation, East Spencer is receiving much-welcomed interest from the industrial and residential development community. However, much of the area that is receiving interest is along the I-85 corridor and is not yet developable because of transportation access issues.

The East Spencer Interchange for a Growth Nexus (DESIGN) project provides a historical opportunity to finally address the long-term transportation and economic challenges facing the Town, a town that is both a Historically Disadvantaged Community (HDC) and an Area of Persistent Poverty (AoPP). We fully believe that this project is key to addressing East Spencer's long-term transportation and economic barriers. The town, which is historically and predominantly African American, was largely cut off from nearby communities to the west by the railroad, to the east by Town Creek, and without any direct connections to the south. The Town has relied on Long Street to access adjacent communities, but we believe that direct access to Interstate 85 immediately changes East Spencer's future, providing access, opportunity, and hope to the community,

The DESIGN project will enable East Spencer to address many of its long-term challenges. Town residents and heavy commercial traffic will benefit from a more direct access to I-85. This access will decrease traffic on Long Street, helping address environmental issues created by significant traffic sitting idle at multiple stop lights along Long Street. This grant represents an historic opportunity to transform East Spencer, breaking the cycle of disinvestment and opening pathways to economic prosperity for its residents.

The Rowan County Board of Commissioners enthusiastically supports this vital project and respectfully asks for your support.

Sincerely,

Gregory C Edds, Chairman
Rowan County Board of Commissioners

Equal Opportunity Employer



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January 27, 2025

Secretary Sean Duffy
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: BUILD Grant Letter of Support

Dear Secretary Duffy:


The Rowan Chamber of Commerce in Salisbury, North Carolina, is pleased to offer this Letter of Support for the Town of East Spencer's application to the U.S. Department of Transportation for a Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant opportunity to support the construction conversion of Correll Street/McCanless Road from an underpass to an interchange on I-85 in Rowan County.

The East Spencer Interchange for a Growth Nexus (DESIGN) project represents a crucial opportunity to address the long-term transportation and economic challenges facing the Town. The Town was largely cut off from nearby communities to the west by the railroad, to the east by Town Creek, and without direct connections to the south. The Town relied on Long Street to access adjacent communities.

The DESIGN project will enable East Spencer to address many of its long-term challenges. Town residents will benefit from a more direct access to I-85. This access will decrease traffic on Long Street, reducing demand on that aging facility and making bicycle and pedestrian use less problematic. In addition, with interchange funding in place, the Town can pursue better access to employment and nearby Hanford-Dole Elementary school. This grant represents an opportunity to transform East Spencer, opening pathways to economic prosperity for its residents.

Please contact Chamber President Elaine Spalding if you require additional information to process this grant application at (704) 633-4221 or espalding@rowanchamber.com

Sincerely,



Steve Fisher, 2025 Chair of the Board
Rowan Chamber of Commerce

January 27, 2025

Secretary Sean Duffy
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Duffy,

On behalf of the Rowan County Economic Development Council, (EDC), we are pleased to support the Town of East Spencer's application for a Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant to convert the Correll Street/McCanless Road underpass into an interchange on I-85.

The East Spencer Interchange for a Growth Nexus (DESIGN) Project represents a significant opportunity to address both transportation and economic development challenges facing the Town of East Spencer. The proposed project will directly address these challenges, improving transportation access and spurring economic growth in the area.

Historically, East Spencer has been isolated due to natural and man-made barriers, including railroad tracks to the west, Town Creek to the east, and limited connections to the south. For many years, Long Street has been the sole route for residents to access nearby communities. The redesign of the Correll Street/McCanless Road underpass into a fully functioning interchange will provide East Spencer residents with direct access to I-85, alleviating congestion on Long Street and improving safety for all users.

Additionally, this project presents an opportunity to enhance the area's infrastructure by improving pedestrian and bicycle access, and increasing connectivity to local schools and employment centers, including Hanford-Dole Elementary. The transformative potential of this project cannot be overstated, as it will open new pathways for economic prosperity for its residents.

We strongly believe that the DESIGN project will have a lasting and positive impact on the Town of East Spencer and Rowan County as a whole, and we urge your favorable consideration of this application for BUILD grant funding.

Thank you for your attention to this important initiative.

Sincerely,



Rod Crider
President



January 27, 2025

Secretary Duffy
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Duffy,

I am writing to express my support for the East Spencer, North Carolina's application for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant. As a representative of the Rowan County Tourism Development Authority, I endorse this project, as it presents a unique opportunity to enhance not only the infrastructure of East Spencer, but also the broader Rowan County tourism and visitor economy.

For Rowan County, tourism and visitors are a significant economic driver. East Spencer's revitalization efforts will create enhanced accessibility and appeal for visitors, helping to promote local attractions, historical sites, and recreational areas. The planned improvements will not only make the town more attractive to potential visitors but will also ensure better connectivity to nearby destinations within Rowan County and beyond, expanding the region's tourism offerings.

Furthermore, Rowan County Tourism is partnering with the Town of East Spencer to implement town way-finding signage and invest in their local arts and culture programs. This project promises to revitalize key areas, improve mobility, and further enhance the current endeavors. These upgrades will have an immediate and long-term positive impact on the quality of life for residents and visitors alike, while also fostering future growth and opportunities.

In closing, I endorse the Town of East Spencer's application for the BUILD grant and support the construction conversion of Correll Street/McCanless Road from an underpass to an interchange on Interstate 85 in Rowan County, North Carolina. This investment will have a lasting and meaningful impact on the community and tourism in Rowan County, creating a more welcoming destination for all. Thank you for your service and consideration of this key project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Rankin Meacham". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James Rankin Meacham
Chief Executive Officer
Rowan County Tourism
204 East Innes Street, Suite 280
Salisbury, N.C. 28144
meacham@visitrowancountync.com



704-633-2231
spencernc.gov

Post Office Box 45
Spencer, NC 28159-0045

January 27, 2025

Secretary Sean Duffy
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: BUILD Grant Letter of Support

Dear Secretary Duffy:

I write to offer my support and endorsement for the Town of East Spencer's application to the U.S. Department of Transportation for a Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant. Our neighbors are pursuing the grant to support the construction conversion of Correll Street/McCanless Road from an underpass to an interchange on I-85 in Rowan County.

Interstate I-85 from Raleigh to Charlotte has, for decades, been touted as the fertile crescent of economic development for central North Carolina. Until recently, however, most development activity has been focused in the Charlotte, Triad, and Triangle metro areas. As property costs and population densities have risen in those areas, new development opportunities are finally reaching counties like Rowan, including small communities like Spencer and East Spencer.

Rowan County has many assets to leverage, such as reasonably priced land supported by natural gas lines, rail access, electrical generation and water/wastewater treatment capacity, and an underutilized labor force. To maximize the opportunity for our community to contribute to industrial development, some infrastructure needs must be met. Collectively, these projects are known locally as the Northern Rowan Connector, to promote regional connectivity, enhance quality of life, and bolster the economies of Rowan County's northern gateway communities. The new I-85 exit is one of these key projects.

While the Town of East Spencer runs adjacent to I-85 for over four miles, access is currently limited to only one interstate interchange and few parallel access roads. To adequately serve existing industrial clients, residential developments, and to open new land for economic development, East Spencer needs an additional interchange.


-Mayor Jonathan D. Williams-

This is one of several needed road and infrastructure improvements in our area. Combined with an exciting a former textile mill redevelopment and a bold vision for enhancing our pedestrian connectivity and outdoor recreation economy, we have many additional projects that will complement a new interchange serving East Spencer and beyond. The success of all these projects would create a big impact in housing opportunity, job creation, and growth in our local tax base.

While our neighbors in East Spencer are leading this project, we wholeheartedly support this effort that will lead to increased economic opportunity for everyone in our area. Additional employment, housing, commerce, and recreation options will be a direct result of a new interstate interchange and are significant needs for northern Rowan County. We have seen similar projects to our south have transformative effects, with a positive impact on a broad area surrounding the improvements. Spencer, the unique High Rock Lake area, and other communities surrounding East Spencer all stand to count this project as a win.

On behalf of the Board of Aldermen and our community, I thank you for your consideration and ask you and your team to support this important request.

Sincerely,



Jonathan D. Williams
Mayor



**CABARRUS - ROWAN URBAN AREA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

CABARRUS COUNTY ◦ CHINA GROVE ◦ CLEVELAND ◦ CONCORD ◦ GRANITE QUARRY ◦ HARRISBURG ◦ KANNAPOLIS ◦ LANDIS
MIDLAND ◦ MOUNT PLEASANT ◦ ROCKWELL ◦ EAST SPENCER ◦ ROWAN COUNTY ◦ SALISBURY ◦ SPENCER ◦ FAITH

January 29, 2025

Secretary Sean Duffy
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: BUILD Grant Letter of Support

Dear Secretary Duffy:

The Cabarrus Rowan Metropolitan Planning Organization (CR MPO) is pleased to offer this Letter of Support for the Town of East Spencer's application to the U.S. Department of Transportation for a Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant opportunity to support the construction conversion of Correll Street/McCanless Road from an underpass to an interchange on I-85 in Rowan County.

The East Spencer Interchange for a Growth Nexus (DESIGN) project represents a crucial opportunity to address the long-term transportation and economic challenges facing the Town. The Town was largely cut off from nearby communities to the west by the railroad, to the east by Town Creek, and without direct connections to the south. The Town relied on Long Street to access adjacent communities.

The DESIGN project will enable East Spencer to address many of its long-term challenges. Town residents will benefit from a more direct access to I-85. This access will decrease traffic on Long Street, reducing demand on an aging facility and making bicycle and pedestrian use less problematic. In addition, with interchange funding in place, the Town can pursue better access to employment and nearby Hanford-Dole Elementary school. This grant represents an opportunity to transform East Spencer, and opening pathways to economic prosperity for its residents.

Sincerely,

Ron Smith, Chairman
Cabarrus-Rowan TAC

cc: Secretary Joey Hopkins, NCDOT
Mr. John Rhyne, NCDOT Division 9
Mayor Barbara Mallett, Town of East Spencer
Mr. Michael Douglas, Town of East Spencer