



**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