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Rowan County Board of Commissioners

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

Subject: RAISE 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 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) 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

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