



PARTNERSHIP for ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
SALISBURY, NC

*Be an original.*

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rod Crider".

Rod Crider  
President