



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

JOSH STEIN
GOVERNOR

J.R. "JOEY" HOPKINS
SECRETARY

January 28, 2025

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

Subject: Letter of Financial Commitment for LINK NC (US 421)

Dear Secretary Duffy:

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is pleased to provide this letter of financial commitment for the USDOT FY2025 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) discretionary grant program for LINK NC (US 421) pedestrian safety improvements at Monkey Junction.

LINK NC will implement new sidewalks, a multi-use path, new signalized pedestrian crossings, lighting improvements, ADA improvements, and new transit shelters—all of which are much-needed safety improvements for the Monkey Junction area of US 421 in New Hanover County, North Carolina.

This grant application is a result of years of collaboration between NCDOT and local stakeholders to address the safety needs for pedestrians of all ages and abilities in the Monkey Junction area. NCDOT has struggled to secure funding for this project through traditional funding methods (see the "Project Budget" section of the narrative for additional information). This is due to the expense of implementing sidewalk and pathway infrastructure along US 421, where drainage, a culvert, and lack of curb and gutter create significant constraints.

The safety needs are exceptional, and it is critical that NCDOT secure a BUILD grant to offset a large portion of the costs, to allow for the safe crossings to be installed, and to reconnect neighborhoods to local retail, transit and community services. This project is part of a larger network of sidewalk and pathways to serve people in this high traffic area of New Hanover County, south of Wilmington.

NCDOT has already invested \$850,000 in preliminary engineering for LINK NC, showing the Department's commitment to delivering this project's safety improvements efficiently.

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USDOT Secretary Sean Duffy

Letter of Financial Commitment for Safer Neuse for New Bern FY2025 BUILD grant program application

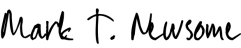
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LINK NC is anticipated to cost \$7,555,000 to complete. NCDOT is requesting \$6,044,000 in BUILD grant funds to implement the LINK NC multimodal safety improvements. NCDOT is committing \$1,511,000 in non-Federal funds, covering the 20% local matching requirement for LINK NC, and is fully committed to pursuing all options available to fund any additional cost overruns if this project is awarded.

Thank you for your consideration of NCDOT's LINK NC (US 421) application. If you have any questions, please call 919-612-6133 or email mnewsome2@ncdot.gov.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

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Mark T. Newsome
Chief Financial Officer
North Carolina Department of Transportation