



BRIDGES NOT BARRIERS

A Collaborative Bridge Bundle
Replacement Project

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program



Steven W. Troxler
Commissioner

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

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

Subject: FY2026 Bridges not Barriers - A collaborative Bridge Bundle Replacement Project BUILD Grant Application

Dear Secretary Duffy,

Please accept this letter of support for the FY2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) application for the **Bridges not Barriers – A collaborative Bridge Bundle Replacement Project** (“the Project” hereafter) submitted by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT). This Project will address the challenges of improving both the physical and economic connectivity in several North Carolina rural agricultural counties.

North Carolina has a large agricultural presence, and these rural communities are national leaders in the production of poultry and eggs, sweet potatoes, tobacco, and other products. Agriculture supports approximately 16 percent of the state’s workforce and contributes \$111.1 billion in state economic impact. The North Carolina agricultural industry’s connectivity relies heavily on smaller, two-lane routes that serve as key agricultural corridors that provide access to the markets needed by farmers in these rural areas of North Carolina.

The Project offers an opportunity to replace fifteen bridges maintained by NCDOT across Division 10 in North Carolina, which is comprised of Anson, Cabarrus, Mecklenburg, Stanly, and Union Counties. The project is part of a coordinated effort to replace primarily rural bridges that experience a variety of problems including flooding, drift, and/or scour. Four of the bridges are low water bridges and are especially susceptible to extreme weather events. Twelve bridges are load posted and six of the bridges are considered structurally deficient. Nine bridges experience scour, and five experience significant drift that needs to be regularly cleared out, significantly increasing operations and maintenance costs. The bridges range from 43 years to 81 years old, with sufficiency ratings between 41 and 73 percent.

For agricultural haulers, the loss of any of these bridges would result in greater costs to the producer. Replacing these fifteen bridges will reduce transportation expenses for agricultural users and other commercial shippers by eliminating costly detours. Safeguarding access to these key bridges will help bring greater economic competitiveness to these rural areas and significantly benefit farmers and other agricultural assets, as well as protect the supply chains of other goods and services.

The implementation of North Carolina’s **Bridges not Barriers – A collaborative Bridge Bundle Replacement Project** will improve physical and economic connectivity in North Carolina’s rural agricultural communities, while aligning with the missions of both NCDOT and North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS).

Thank you for your consideration of NCDOT’s application for federal competitive grant funding.

Sincerely,

Steven W. Troxler
Commissioner N.C. Department of Agriculture



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

B

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:

I would like to express my strong support for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT's) **Bridges not Barriers – A collaborative Bridge Bundle Replacement Project** (“the Project” hereafter) application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program. The Project offers an opportunity to replace 15 bridges maintained by NCDOT across Division 10 in North Carolina. Division 10 is comprised of Anson County, Cabarrus County, Mecklenburg County, Stanly County, and Union County. The project is part of a coordinated effort to replace primarily rural bridges in disadvantaged communities across the Division.

The Project focuses on the replacement of bridges with a variety of problems including flooding, drift, and/or scour. Four of the bridges are low water bridges and are especially susceptible to extreme weather events. Eleven bridges are load posted and nine of the bridges experience flooding. Nine bridges experience scour, and five experience significant drift that needs to be regularly cleared out, significantly increasing operations and maintenance costs. The bridges range from 42 years to 80 years, with sufficiency ratings between 37 and 73 percent.

The Project will provide an opportunity to replace aged bridges that otherwise might not be replaced in a timely manner due to their prioritization level compared to other bridge projects in the Division. The removal of recurring flooding, scour, and drift issues will reduce regular maintenance, decreasing cost burdens to the State. This will allow NCDOT to stretch resources further and allocate them to other areas in need across the Division and State.

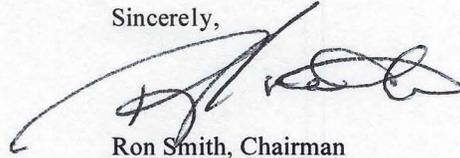
The Cabarrus-Rowan Metropolitan Planning Organization (CR MPO) is the officially designated body responsible for administering the transportation planning process required under Federal Law. The MPO serves the Cities of Concord, Kannapolis and Salisbury, Cabarrus and Rowan Counties, and the Towns of Landis, China Grove, Harrisburg, Cleveland, Rockwell, Granite Quarry, Mount Pleasant, Faith, Midland, Spencer and East Spencer.

Furthermore, the implementation of the Project is expected to foster increased accessibility to community members and foster improved emergency response that is not burdened by detours in the event extreme weather events. These bridge replacements are extremely important to the local community and region, as well as benefit impoverished residents within the project area. In fact, four bridges are located within disadvantaged census tracts and six are located within Areas of Persistent Poverty.

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

For these reasons, I, along with those I represent, strongly urge you to support the **Bridges not Barriers – A collaborative Bridge Bundle Replacement Project** and the NCDOT's application for federal Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development Grant Program funding to accelerate construction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ron Smith', written over a horizontal line.

Ron Smith, Chairman
Cabarrus-Rowan TAC

cc: Secretary Joey Hopkins, NCDOT
Mr. Brett Canipe, NCDOT Division 10



January 30, 2025

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

To The Selection Committee:

I would like to express my support for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT's) **Bridges not Barriers – A collaborative Bridge Bundle Replacement Project** ("the Project") application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program. The Project offers an opportunity to replace 15 bridges maintained by NCDOT across Division 10 in North Carolina. Division 10 is comprised of Anson County, Cabarrus County, Mecklenburg County, Stanly County, and Union County. The project is part of a coordinated effort to replace bridges in disadvantaged communities across the Division.

The Project focuses on the replacement of bridges with a variety of issues including flooding, drift, and/or scour. Four of the bridges are low water bridges and are especially susceptible to extreme weather events. Eleven bridges are load posted and nine of the bridges experience flooding. Nine bridges experience scour, and five experience significant drift that needs to be regularly cleared, significantly increasing operations and maintenance costs. The bridges range from 42 years to 80 years, with sufficiency ratings between 37 and 73 percent. The Project will provide an opportunity to replace aged bridges that otherwise might not be replaced in a timely manner due to their prioritization level compared to other bridge projects in the Division. The removal of recurring flooding, scour, and drift issues will reduce regular maintenance, decreasing cost burdens to the State. This will allow NCDOT to stretch resources further and allocate them to other areas in need across Division 10 and the state.

Implementation of the Project is expected to foster increased accessibility to community members and foster improved emergency response that is not burdened by detours in the event extreme weather events. These bridge replacements are extremely important to the local community and region, as well as benefit impoverished residents within the project area. I appreciate your consideration of this important project.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debbie R. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Debbie Smith, Director



February 12, 2026

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

Secretary Duffy:

I would like to express my strong support for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT's) Bridges not Barriers – A collaborative Bridge Bundle Replacement Project ("the Project" hereafter) application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program. The Project offers an opportunity to replace 15 bridges maintained by NCDOT across Division 10 in North Carolina. Division 10 is comprised of Anson County, Cabarrus County, Mecklenburg County, Stanly County, and Union County. The project is part of a coordinated effort to replace primarily rural bridges in communities with persistent poverty across the Division.

The Project focuses on the replacement of bridges with a variety of problems including flooding, drift, and/or scour. Four of the bridges are low water bridges and are especially susceptible to extreme weather events. Twelve bridges are load posted and six of the bridges are considered structurally deficient. Nine bridges experience scour, and five experience significant drift that needs to be regularly cleared out, significantly increasing operations and maintenance costs. The bridges range from 43 years to 81 years old, with sufficiency ratings between 41 and 73 percent.

The Project will provide an opportunity to replace aged bridges that otherwise might not be replaced in a timely manner due to their prioritization level compared to other bridge projects in the Division. The removal of recurring flooding, scour, and drift issues will reduce regular maintenance, decreasing cost burdens to the State. This will allow NCDOT to stretch resources further and allocate them to other areas in need across the Division and State. Furthermore, the implementation of the Project is expected to foster increased accessibility to community members and foster improved emergency response that is not burdened by detours in the event extreme weather events.

These bridge replacements are extremely important to the local community and region, as well as benefit impoverished residents within Union County. In fact, two of the five bridges in Union

Union County
500 North Main Street
Monroe, NC 28112
T 704.283.3853

unioncountync.gov



County are located within disadvantaged census tracts and one is located within an Area of Persistent Poverty.

For these reasons, I, along with those I represent, strongly urge you to support the Bridges not Barriers – A collaborative Bridge Bundle Replacement Project and the NCDOT's application for federal Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program funding to accelerate construction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Brian W. Matthews'.

Brian W. Matthews
County Manager

ROCKY RIVER RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

February 18, 2026

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

Secretary Duffy:

I would like to express my strong support for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT's) **Bridges not Barriers – A collaborative Bridge Bundle Replacement Project** ("the Project" hereafter) application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program. The Project offers an opportunity to replace 15 bridges maintained by NCDOT across Division 10 in North Carolina. Division 10 comprises Anson County, Cabarrus County, Mecklenburg County, Stanly County, and Union County. The project is part of a coordinated effort to replace primarily rural bridges in communities with persistent poverty across the Division.

The Project focuses on the replacement of bridges with a variety of problems including flooding, drift, and/or scour. Four of the bridges are low water bridges and are especially susceptible to extreme weather events. Twelve bridges are load posted and six of the bridges are considered structurally deficient. Nine bridges experience scour, and five experience significant drift that needs to be regularly cleared out, significantly increasing operations and maintenance costs. The bridges range from 43 years to 81 years old, with sufficiency ratings between 41 and 73 percent.

The Project will provide an opportunity to replace aged bridges that otherwise might not be replaced in a timely manner due to their prioritization level compared to other bridge projects in the Division. The removal of recurring flooding, scour, and drift issues will reduce regular maintenance, decreasing cost burdens to the State. This will allow NCDOT to stretch resources further and allocate them to other areas in need across the Division and State.

Furthermore, the implementation of the Project is expected to foster increased accessibility to community members and foster improved emergency response that is not burdened by detours in the event of extreme weather events. These bridge replacements are extremely important to the local community and region, as well as benefit impoverished residents within the project area. In fact, four bridges are located within disadvantaged census tracts and six are located within Areas of Persistent Poverty.

For these reasons, I, along with those I represent, strongly urge you to support the **Bridges not Barriers– A collaborative Bridge Bundle Replacement Project** and the NCDOT's application for federal Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program funding to accelerate construction.

Respectfully,



Lee Snuggs, Director
Rocky River Rural Planning Organization



February 27, 2026

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

RE: Letter of Support - Bridges not Barriers - A collaborative Bridge Bundle Replacement Project

Dear Secretary Duffy:

As Director of the Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CRTPO), I am writing to express our full support for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT's) **Bridges not Barriers - A collaborative Bridge Bundle Replacement Project** ("the Project" hereafter) application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program.

CRTPO is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Charlotte urbanized area, responsible for guiding regional transportation planning and investment decisions across Iredell, Mecklenburg, and Union Counties. The Project offers an opportunity to replace 15 bridges maintained by NCDOT across Division 10 in North Carolina. Division 10 is comprised of Anson County, Cabarrus County, Mecklenburg County, Stanly County, and Union County. The project is part of a coordinated effort to replace primarily rural bridges in communities with persistent poverty across the Division.

The Project focuses on the replacement of bridges with a variety of problems including flooding, drift, and/or scour. Four of the bridges are low water bridges and are especially susceptible to extreme weather events. Twelve bridges are load posted and six of the bridges are considered structurally deficient. Nine bridges experience scour, and five experience significant drift that needs to be regularly cleared out, significantly



increasing operations and maintenance costs. The bridges range from 43 years to 81 years old, with sufficiency ratings between 41 and 73 percent.

The Project will provide an opportunity to replace aged bridges that otherwise might not be replaced in a timely manner due to their prioritization level compared to other bridge projects in the Division. The removal of recurring flooding, scour, and drift issues will reduce regular maintenance, decreasing cost burdens to the State. This will allow NCDOT to stretch resources further and allocate them to other areas in need across the Division and State.

Furthermore, the implementation of the Project is expected to foster increased accessibility to community members and foster improved emergency response that is not burdened by detours in the event extreme weather events. These bridge replacements are extremely important to the local community and region, as well as benefit impoverished residents within the project area. In fact, four bridges are located within disadvantaged census tracts and six are located within Areas of Persistent Poverty.

For these reasons, the CRTPO strongly urge you to support the **Bridges not Barriers - A collaborative Bridge Bundle Replacement Project** and the NCDOT's application for federal Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program funding to accelerate construction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert W. Cook". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert W. Cook, AICP
Director, Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization



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

I would like to express my strong support for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT's) **Bridges not Barriers – A collaborative Bridge Bundle Replacement Project** (“the Project” hereafter) application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program. The Project offers an opportunity to replace 15 bridges maintained by NCDOT across Division 10 in North Carolina. Division 10 is comprised of Anson County, Cabarrus County, Mecklenburg County, Stanly County, and Union County. The project is part of a coordinated effort to replace primarily rural bridges in communities with persistent poverty across the Division.

The Project focuses on the replacement of bridges with a variety of problems including flooding, drift, and/or scour. Four of the bridges are low water bridges and are especially susceptible to extreme weather events. Twelve bridges are load posted and six of the bridges are considered structurally deficient. Nine bridges experience scour, and five experience significant drift that needs to be regularly cleared out, significantly increasing operations and maintenance costs. The bridges range from 43 years to 81 years old, with sufficiency ratings between 41 and 73 percent.

The Project will provide an opportunity to replace aged bridges that otherwise might not be replaced in a timely manner due to their prioritization level compared to other bridge projects in the Division. The removal of recurring flooding, scour, and drift issues will reduce regular maintenance, decreasing cost burdens to the State. This will allow NCDOT to stretch resources further and allocate them to other areas in need across the Division and State.

Furthermore, the implementation of the Project is expected to foster increased accessibility to community members and foster improved emergency response that is not burdened by detours in the event extreme weather events. These bridge replacements are extremely important to the local community and region, as well as benefit impoverished residents within the project area. In fact, four bridges are located within disadvantaged census tracts and six are located within Areas of Persistent Poverty.

For these reasons, I, along with those I represent, strongly urge you to support the **Bridges not Barriers – A collaborative Bridge Bundle Replacement Project** and the NCDOT's application for federal Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program funding to accelerate construction.

Sincerely,

Liz Babson

Deputy City Manager, City of Charlotte

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3308

February 27, 2026

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

Dear Secretary Duffy:

I write to express my strong support for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's "Bridges not Barriers – A Collaborative Bridge Bundle Replacement Project" and its application for funding under the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program.

This project represents a strategic effort to replace 15 aging bridges across my district, including Anson, Cabarrus, Mecklenburg, Stanly, and Union Counties. Several of these bridges are decades old and have sufficiency ratings as low as 41 percent. Twelve are currently load-posted, six are considered structurally deficient, and multiple bridges face recurring issues such as flooding, scour, and significant drift accumulation. Four are low-water crossings that are particularly vulnerable during extreme weather events.

Replacing these bridges will enhance public safety, strengthen emergency response ability, and support rural communities. Addressing chronic flooding and structural concerns will reduce ongoing maintenance costs, allowing the state to redirect limited funds to other pressing infrastructure needs.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your favorable consideration of NCDOT's application. This project will strengthen infrastructure, support economic growth, and improve safety for the people of North Carolina, including the families and communities I serve in the Eighth District.

Sincerely,



Mark Harris
Member of Congress



Board of County Commissioners

March 16, 2025

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

Secretary Duffy:

On behalf of the Cabarrus County Board of Commissioners, I would like to express my strong support for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT's) Bridges not Barriers – A collaborative Bridge Bundle Replacement Project (“the Project” hereafter) application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program. The Project offers an opportunity to replace 15 bridges maintained by NCDOT across Division 10 in North Carolina. Division 10 is comprised of Anson County, Cabarrus County, Mecklenburg County, Stanly County, and Union County. The project is part of a coordinated effort to replace primarily rural bridges in communities with persistent poverty across the Division.

The Project focuses on the replacement of bridges with a variety of problems including flooding, drift, and/or scour. Four of the bridges are low water bridges and are especially susceptible to extreme weather events. Twelve bridges are load posted and six of the bridges are considered structurally deficient. Nine bridges experience scour, and five experience significant drift that needs to be regularly cleared out, significantly increasing operations and maintenance costs. The bridges range from 43 years to 81 years old, with sufficiency ratings between 41 and 73 percent.

The Project will provide an opportunity to replace aged bridges that otherwise might not be replaced in a timely manner due to their prioritization level compared to other bridge projects in the Division. The removal of recurring flooding, scour, and drift issues will reduce regular maintenance, decreasing cost burdens to the State. This will allow NCDOT to stretch resources further and allocate them to other areas in need across the Division and State.

The implementation of the Project is expected to foster increased accessibility to community members and foster improved emergency response that is not burdened by detours in the event extreme weather events. These bridge replacements are extremely important to the local community and region, as well as benefit impoverished residents within the project area. In fact, four bridges are located within disadvantaged census tracts and six are located within Areas of Persistent Poverty.

For these reasons, I, along with those I represent, strongly urge you to support the Bridges not Barriers – A collaborative Bridge Bundle Replacement Project and the NCDOT's application for federal Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program funding to accelerate construction.

Respectfully,



Laura Lindsey, Chair
Cabarrus County Board of Commissioners