

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