

# TOWN OF ELKIN

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Will Gwyn

**TOWN MANAGER**  
Brent Cornelison

**TOWN ATTORNEY**  
Raymond A. Parker



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February 16, 2026

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

Dear Secretary Duffy:

On behalf of the Town of Elkin, I am pleased to express our strong support for **Rest area Expansion for Safe Transportation (REST or "the Project")**, submitted to USDOT's 2026 BUILD program. The Project will restore and modernize the I-77 North Welcome Center in Surry County, North Carolina (NC) by adding 30 new freight truck parking spaces alongside a Truck Parking Information Management System (TPIMS) and additional traffic cameras to alert drivers of available parking spaces and dangerous road and weather conditions ahead. Additionally, REST will construct a new Welcome Center Facility to better meet the needs of both truckers and traveling families with upgraded amenities and improvements to the user experience that improve safety and convenience at the 3<sup>rd</sup> most visited Welcome Center in NC.

However, the corridor faces severe truck parking shortages, and freight truck drivers are often forced to park illegally on interstate ramps and shoulders to stay within federal Hours Of Service (HOS) regulations. This is especially true at Exit 85 here in Elkin. Not only does it create safety hazards and destroy existing asphalt shoulders, but it also creates a large amount of trash left on the off/on ramps.

Thank you for your consideration of REST's BUILD grant application to deliver essential improvements that support the motor carriers who keep our economy moving while modernizing one of the state's most heavily visited rest areas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brent Cornelison".

Brent Cornelison, Town Manager