

**GASTON-CLEVELAND-LINCOLN
Metropolitan Planning Organization**

Transportation Planning

February 16, 2026

The Honorable Sean Duffy
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
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Washington, DC 20590

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**SAFE (Secure, Accessible, Functional, and Efficient) -North Carolina Truck Parking Action Plan: FY 2026
Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program**

Dear Secretary Duffy,

On behalf of Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization (GCLMPO), I am writing in support of the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) BUILD funding application for the SAFE (Secure, Accessible, Functional, and Efficient) -Truck Parking Action Plan. The Plan will assess truck parking supply and demand and leverage this information and stakeholder insight to identify and develop implementation projects, including new public truck parking capacity and technology projects to support safe and efficient goods movement to, from, and within North Carolina.

Federal regulations on Hours-of-Service and electronic logging device mandates, combined with population growth, increases in e-commerce, and industrial expansion, have led to a surge in truck parking demand in North Carolina. In 2022, 94% of truck parking spots in North Carolina were full most nights. This level of use, in part, led to 9,200 occurrences of unauthorized overnight truck parking. Truck parking demand continues to increase, and based on current projections, total truck tonnage in North Carolina is anticipated to grow by more than 50% through 2050.

SAFE will address this situation by identifying existing and future truck parking hotspots along interstate corridors, developing strategies to address safety, congestion, and community impacts of truck parking, and identifying projects that improve truck parking capacity and facilitate safe, secure, reliable, and cost-effective parking for shippers, helping to support North Carolina businesses. The Plan will include project concepts, costs, and environmental screening, positioning projects to compete for funding. The projects will consider public-private partnerships to expand truck parking facilities.

The Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln MPO region is strategically located along major freight corridors, including I-85 and key regional connectors that support manufacturing, logistics, and distribution activity. As the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for Gaston, Cleveland, and Lincoln counties, GCLMPO is responsible for long-range transportation planning that ensures the safe and efficient movement of people and goods. Adequate truck parking is essential to maintaining freight reliability and protecting the safety of all roadway users. When parking options are limited, trucks may park along shoulders, ramps, or in other unintended locations, creating safety risks and community concerns.

Strategic investments and technology solutions to expand and better manage truck parking capacity will improve safety, reduce congestion, and support the continued economic competitiveness of our region and the state.

GCLMPO hopes the USDOT will make a grant award to NCDOT in support of this important application. Federal funds will make it possible for North Carolina to prepare for and advance projects to address current and future truck parking needs, helping to improve safety for all roadway users, reduce goods movement costs, increase business productivity, and mitigate community and environmental impacts of unauthorized parking.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tori S. Dellinger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T'.

Tori S. Dellinger
GCLMPO Administrator