

The Honorable Sean Duffy
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

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 Upper Coastal Plain Rural Planning Organization, 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.

As the Upper Coastal Plain RPO, we support safe and efficient freight movement throughout our region. Limited truck parking contributes to safety concerns, unauthorized parking, and operational challenges that impact our communities and local industries. Expanding truck parking capacity and incorporating technology solutions would improve

roadway safety, strengthen supply chain reliability, and support continued economic growth in Eastern North Carolina.

Upper Coastal Plain Rural Planning Organization 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,



Miranda Boykin
UCPRPO TAC Chair



Jennifer Roman
UCPRPO