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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 the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan 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.

The Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's planning area boundary includes several major employers, large economic generators, and the North Carolina State Port

Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

City of Wilmington • Town of Carolina Beach • Town of Kure Beach • Town of Wrightsville Beach
County of New Hanover • Town of Belville • Town of Leland • Town of Navassa • County of Brunswick
County of Pender • Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority • North Carolina Department of Transportation

Authority's Port of Wilmington. The Wilmington Urban Area is served by regional and national highway networks as well as intermodal rail service. The major employers and large economic generators in our region are critical to the local, state, and national economy.

Freight mobility and truck parking are important to the overall mobility, safety, and success of our region. The Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization recently completed and adopted our Wilmington Regional ITS Strategic Deployment Plan. This plan provides a strategic framework for deploying and integrating technology-based solutions across the region. The plan's recommendations include Freight Mobility and Truck Parking and the creation of a Regional Parking Management Plan. A Truck Parking Action Plan completed by NCDOT fits well within the recommendations of the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's Regional ITS Strategic Deployment Plan.

The Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan 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.

If you have any questions regarding this letter of support, please contact me directly at mike.kozlosky@wilmingtonnc.gov or (910) 342-2781.

Sincerely,



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