

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER GOVERNOR J. ERIC BOYETTE Secretary

NCDOT WILDLIFE CROSSINGS PILOT PROGRAM 2023 GRANT APPLICATION I-26 UNITE REQUEST FOR AGENCY SUPPORT

The Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program (WCPP) is a competitive grant program that awards grants to eligible entities for projects with the goal of reducing Wildlife Vehicle Collisions (WVCs) while improving both motorist safety and habitat connectivity for terrestrial and aquatic species.

In the spirit of continued longstanding interagency cooperation, the NCDOT requests your support for I-26 UNITE (see attached), a WCPP grant application. NCDOT has a successful history of incorporating and constructing wildlife crossings on transportation facilities in North Carolina. The Department also recently developed a joint Wildlife Stewardship Memorandum of Understanding with the NC Wildlife Resource Commission which is found here: <u>Policies</u>, <u>Guidance and Initiatives (ncdot.gov</u>). The NCDOT will adhere to all NEPA requirements and secure all necessary environmental approvals and permits for this project if funding is awarded. Your support does not compromise or eliminate NCDOT's adherence to statutory or regulatory requirements. Additional information on I-26 UNITE can be found here: <u>Grant Applications (ncdot.gov)</u>.

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Organization:_____U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Asheville Field Office

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Website: ncdot.gov