

City of  *Lumberton*
Office of The Mayor

March 13, 2019

Secretary James H. Trogon III
North Carolina Department of Transportation
1501 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1501

Dear Secretary Trogon:

On behalf of the Lumberton City Council and citizens of Lumberton, please accept this letter of support for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT's) **I-95/Future I-87 Rural Corridor, Resiliency, and Innovative Technology Improvements Project** application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's INFRA Program. The Project is the outcome of a thoughtful combination of multiple complementary investments and coordinated strategy to improve corridor performance, freight mobility, infrastructure resiliency, build out and harden the network of freight distribution/military corridors and digital connectivity of rural communities in eastern North Carolina.

The I-95 Corridor is critical to long-distance travel up and down the East Coast and is vital for local trips within North Carolina as well. Given its location along the eastern seaboard with multiple river crossings, I-95, as currently designed, is vulnerable to flooding. The Project widens 27-miles of I-95 to eight (8) lanes, from Exit 13 to 40 between Lumberton and Fayetteville and raises two bridges near Lumberton and several low-lying portions of the road that are susceptible to flooding. It also includes state-of-the-art flood monitoring technology in order to manage evacuation routes in real time.

The I-95 Corridor serves as an economic catalyst for eastern North Carolina where it traverses through eight (8) rural counties between Virginia and South Carolina. Given the conditions of agricultural, manufacturing and military industries in this area; I-95 is the primary freight corridor in eastern North Carolina. The movement of intrastate freight depends on I-95, while regional and local trade utilizes I-95 to access markets in the northeast and Florida, while also providing access to major east coast ports. Regionally, the I-95 corridor serves as a significant route for commuters in Lumberton, leading to the Raleigh-Durham and Fayetteville metropolitan areas. In the "I-95 North Carolina Economic Assessment," prepared for the North Carolina Department of Transportation it was determined that maintaining I-95 as it is today would lead to significant economic

losses for the corridor counties and eastern North Carolina. The study estimates that over 16,000 jobs will be lost annually by simple maintaining the facility. Along with the economic benefits, I-95 needs improvement to help improve safety and to mitigate congestion.

For these reasons, we strongly urge you to support the **I-95/Future I-87 Rural Corridor, Resiliency, and Innovative Technology Improvements Project** and the NCDOT's application for federal INFRA grant funding to accelerate its construction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce W. Davis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bruce" being the most prominent.

Bruce W. Davis
Mayor
City of Lumberton

BWD: lmm

1,000 Years of Flooding in 24 Months

*A Floodplain Administrator's Experience
with Hurricanes Matthew & Florence*











