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March 26, 2019

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

Dear Secretary Trogdon:

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.

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,

Kellie Hunt Blue
County Manager