



## Office of the County Manager

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March 12, 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 combines multiple investments that are complementary and allows a strategy to address corridor performance, freight mobility, infrastructure resiliency, freight distribution, and digital connectivity of rural communities.

The Future I-87 Corridor traverses rural eastern North Carolina connecting Wake County to the Hampton Roads-Norfolk region in Virginia, including improving the road to interstate standards from Zebulon to Williamston. The Project provides an additional economic development connection to Wake County. Part of the scope of the project includes installation of a fiber optic cable along the Future I-87 corridor, as well as the extension of US-64. The County is supportive of these connections and believes that this infrastructure is key in helping the County's target industries of cleantech/smart grid, IT/technology, life sciences, and advanced manufacturing bridge the rural and urban divide and create genuine partnerships between businesses in Wake County and eastern North Carolina.

For these reasons, I strongly 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,

David Ellis, County Manager  
Wake County, NC

cc: Wake County Congressional Delegation