



March 12, 2019

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

Dear Secretary Trogdon:

I am writing, on behalf of the I-95 Corridor Coalition, to offer our 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 I-95 Corridor Coalition is an alliance of transportation agencies, toll authorities, and related organizations, from the State of Maine to the State of Florida that move passenger and freight throughout one of the world's busiest transportation corridors. The Coalition has an 18+ year history with North Carolina DOT, working together to advance improvements that benefit states up and down the east coast. The NCDOT Project aligns with the Coalition's goals and demonstrates how complementary investments and coordinated strategy can 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 addresses key low-lying portions 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 Future I-87 Corridor traverses rural eastern North Carolina, connecting Raleigh, NC and the Hampton Roads-Norfolk region in Virginia to serve as an interstate connection between the destinations. In addition, the Project will install fiber optic cable along the entire length of the Future I-87 corridor, as well as the extension of US-64 addressing key needs in these important evacuation routes. These investments will also help the US prepare for future autonomous vehicles and enhance broadband capability in this underserved rural area.

These are just a few of the many reasons we strongly support the NCDOT's ***I-95 /Future I-87 Rural Corridor, Resiliency, and Innovative Technology Improvements Project*** application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia G. Hendren".

Patricia G. Hendren, PhD, Executive Director
I-95 Corridor Coalition