

The Town of



Princeville

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CHARTERED IN 1885

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 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. The project will improve the road to interstate standards from Zebulon to Williamston and include upgrades to several interchanges. The Project will also make improvements to mitigate road flooding in the Princeville area.

Future I-87 and the US-64 extension to the coast are important evacuation routes. 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. The project will include wind and flood monitoring, management of the corridor in a coordinated manner with I-95 and US-70 (Future I-42) where fiber is already being installed, preparation for future autonomous vehicles and enhance broadband capability in this underserved rural area.

The Town of Princeville suffered extensive damage from flooding due to Hurricane Floyd in 1999 and again in 2016 from Hurricane Matthew. The Town sits adjacent to the Tar River and due to the elevation, the Town continues to be susceptible to major flooding. A Flood Risk Management Plan was developed, and major components of the plan included extending a portion of the existing levee to the east to improve the level of flood risk reduction provided to the main historic area of Princeville; raising local roadways, installing culvert flapgates, and construction of a shoulder levee along Highway 64 interchange. However, this plan has not yet come into fruition. 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,


Glenda Lawrence-Knight

Town Manager