



NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE

SENATOR DON G. DAVIS
5th District

COMMITTEES:

Appropriations on Department of Transportation
Education/Higher Education
State and Local Government
Finance
Health Care

Office: 300 N. Salisbury Street
519 Legislative Office Building
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925
Phone: (919) 715-8363
Fax: (919) 754-3159
Email: don.davis@ncleg.net
Counties: Pitt, Wayne, Lenoir and Greene

November 14, 2017

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 my strong support for the proposed I-95/US 70 Innovative Technology Rural Mobility Corridor Improvements. The investment in the infrastructure of Eastern North Carolina will have a long-lasting, positive impact on the economy, mobility, and safety of the region.

The I-95 section of the Project will increase safety, bring key portions of the facility into a state of good repair and up to current design standards, add capacity and increase the flow of traffic on this national artery in North Carolina. These improvements will ensure connections between the Southeast, Mid-Atlantic, Northeast, military installations, and international ports on the eastern seaboard are maintained and enhanced.

The US 70 (future I-42) portion of the Project completes the last two remaining gaps between I-40 and the eastern terminus of the Havelock Bypass to bring the entire stretch of road up to freeway standards. This will be the culmination of a decades-long effort to develop this facility to serve Eastern North Carolina both economically and in times of need, as US 70 serves as an evacuation route during severe storms.

The plan to install the conduit and fiber backbone within the project's right of way along these portions of I-95 and US 70 will enable service within these critical corridors. This infrastructure improvement will provide capacity for current and future needs, allow for modernization of public safety centers, and provide the environment for connected and autonomous vehicles, among its many benefits.

While each component of the Project can stand alone, the greatest benefits are realized when the two investments are jointly made. The ITS features included in the Project would facilitate detours when adverse circumstances close I-95 for hours at a time. The communications coverage provided with US 70 and I-95 could easily be extended to include the southern portion of US 117 between I-40 and US 70. Collectively, by wiring this "triangle" near the center of I-95 as it traverses the state, NCDOT would have the ability to analyze and manage traffic capacity in real time using the IT enhancements in response to crash and natural hazard events.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and please contact my office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don G. Davis".

Senator Donald G. Davis