

February 12, 2020

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

*Ref: I-87 INFRA GRANT for 2020*

Dear Secretary Trogdon:

**Please accept this letter of support for the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's INFRA Program to support the advancement of Interstate 87 between central North Carolina and southeastern Virginia.**

The Future I-87 Corridor traverses rural northeastern North Carolina and southeastern Virginia, connecting Raleigh, NC with Virginia's Hampton Roads region. This application proposes to upgrade more than 80 miles of the existing freeway corridor to Interstate standards in central and northeastern North Carolina from its current terminus east of Raleigh. The proposed improvements will also incorporate resiliency measures to mitigate road flooding in the Princeville area near the Tar River. In addition, the application includes the installation of fiber optic cable along the I-87 corridor in North Carolina, which will enhance broadband capability in a number of underserved areas.


I-87 will serve as the second primary Interstate for both Hampton Roads and Raleigh, complementing our existing I-64 and I-40 corridors in our respective regions, and providing a vital linkage to I-95. Around 25% of shipments leaving the Port of Virginia area are destined for I-95 and points south, which would be greatly facilitated by an improved I-87.

Our regional business organizations – the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce in Virginia, and the Regional Transportation Alliance in North Carolina – have jointly supported the advancement of the I-87 corridor for many years. We strongly support the NCDOT INFRA application to help accelerate the completion of Future I-87.

Sincerely,



Joe Milazzo II, PE  
Executive Director  
Regional Transportation Alliance



Bryan Stephens  
President and CEO  
Hampton Roads Chamber

*The Regional Transportation Alliance, the voice of the regional business community on transportation in North Carolina's Research Triangle region, is a program of the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce.*

*The Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce serves as the voice of business in southeastern Virginia, serving the Norfolk, Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Hampton, Newport News region.*