



CITY of MOUNT HOLLY

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April 12, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
United States Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Interstate 85 from Charlotte to Atlanta connects the nation's third largest economic region. It is a critical transportation corridor supporting not only Gaston County's growing economic vibrancy but the overall US economy as well. Consequently, on behalf of the City of Mount Holly, I am writing to express strong support for the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) grant application for the I-85: FUNDing Transportation Utilizing Resilient, Equitable, Solutions (I-85 FUTURES) project in Gaston and Cleveland Counties.

There has been a documented need to improve the I-85 for several decades. Since 1991, when NCDOT first explored the potential construction of another high-speed crossing of the Catawba River, the necessity to increase the capacity of this high-volume interstate corridor has been unquestioned. The Gaston County portion currently experiences frequent delays due to general congestion and becomes almost impassible when accidents occur. Unfortunately, recent roadway construction material increases have complicated financing for this important project, rendering MPDG assistance even more crucial.

The City of Mount Holly is the second largest municipality in Gaston County, just west of the Catawba River that separates Gaston County from Mecklenburg County (Charlotte). Our City is fortunate to be located a short distance from the Charlotte Douglas International Airport, Uptown Charlotte and downtown Gastonia. The connection through this region is I-85, and as congestion occurs, it affects businesses and individuals alike. I-85 is in desperate need of expansion and the City of Mount Holly fully supports the I-85 FUTURES project.

Thank you for your strong consideration of NCDOT's I-85 FUTURES application for MPDG grant funding.

Sincerely,

Miles Braswell
City Manager

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