

To: Whom this May Concern

From: Eric M. Barker, Director of Transportation *EMB*

Re: Low or High-Water Bridges

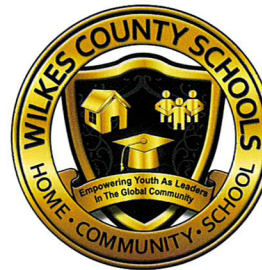
Date: March 21, 2022

I am writing in support of the grant application for improving the status of the following structures located in Division 11 of Wilkes County: 960012, 960340, 960341, 960655, 960691, and 960730. According to our data using the Transportation Information Management System (TIMS), we daily have 8 buses that travel over these specific targeted bridges with at least 15 daily trips over them each student day. These bridges impact three of our elementary schools and two of our Middle/High Schools. I have personally observed some children and families not being able to travel to their particular destinations because of flooding and because it became unsafe for automobiles and even school buses to travel over these types of bridges. Although alternate routes sometimes can be a choice, sometimes, folks have only one way to get out of their locations which means crossing that low water bridge. We would hope that in the future all bridges could be built or updated to help all stakeholders to travel safely over bridges during and after heavy precipitation. In closing, we appreciate everyone involved in these projects for their desire to improve our community for all the students. Please do not hesitate to call or request additional information from our department and school system.

Sincerely,



Eric M. Barker



Eric Barker

*Director of Transportation
and Driver Traffic Education*

barkere@wilkes.k12.nc.us

613 Cherry Street
N. Wilkesboro, NC 28659
School Bus Garage: 336.667.1126
Direct Line: 336.651.4023
Cell: 336.452.0191
www.wilkescountyschools.org