

# GROUND TO SKY PROJECT



## Funding Commitment Documentation

**MPDG FFY 2023 and 2024  
GRANT APPLICATION  
AUGUST 2023**





STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER  
GOVERNOR

ELAINE F. MARSHALL  
SECRETARY

08/16/2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC, 20590

Subject: Certification of Financial Contribution  
North Carolina Department of Transportation Multimodal Project Rural  
Discretionary Grant Application, *Ground to Sky* (G2S) Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) wishes to express its full support for the *Ground to Sky* project to be submitted to the United States Department of Transportation Multimodal Project Rural Discretionary Grant Program.

The NCDOT is hereby committing to fund the *Ground to Sky* project in the amount of \$30 million (2023\$) towards a successful Multimodal Project Rural Discretionary Grant from the State funds allocated by the North Carolina General Assembly. The project is included in the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (FBRMPO) Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and is included in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) as project HE-0001.

The Project entails the construction of a new interchange (Exit 35) on I-26 and access road that will provide a direct connection to a new manufacturing facility (Pratt & Whitney, a division of Raytheon, Inc.) and other planned development in Biltmore Park West in Buncombe County. This public infrastructure project is crucial in supporting this investment. By awarding this application, the Biden Administration and USDOT will be partnering for the creation of nearly 800 jobs with an average salary of \$68,000, which exceeds the current median income in the region. The Project will also and expand vocational education in the region.

As part of their investment, Pratt & Whitney is partnering with Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College to train the workforce for advanced technology jobs and will construct a new 20,000-square-foot educational facility close to the manufacturing plant, increasing the educational capacity of the region. This education partnership will

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eliminate barriers to opportunities while continuing to enhance racial equity in the region. This effort will not only benefit hardworking citizens but also will be an asset to NCDOT.

NCDOT is committed to promoting environmental sustainability through this project partnership. The *Ground to Sky* project is an opportunity to improve environmental sustainability through forward-thinking aviation technology manufactured by Pratt & Whitney that will reduce aircraft emissions.

We are proud of the local, regional, and state partnerships and can-do spirit of collaboration that have brought us to where we are today. We are also proud to add this investment to North Carolina's storied aviation legacy that will create economic vibrancy and transportation mobility from "ground to sky." Finally, we are proud that within one single project we have been able to demonstrate a commitment to do our part in meeting three important goals of President Biden: Jobs, Education, and Infrastructure. I hope you will give all due consideration to this application.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit our Multimodal Project Rural Discretionary Grant Application to further showcase this project's positive and profound impact, which is reflected in our mission statement:

*Connecting people, products and places safely and efficiently with customer focus, accountability and environmental sensitivity to enhance the economy and vitality of North Carolina.*

Thank you for your consideration of the *Ground to Sky* project for the Multimodal Project Rural Discretionary Grant Program.

If NCDOT can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (919) 707-4320 or via e-mail at [mnewsome2@ncdot.gov](mailto:mnewsome2@ncdot.gov).

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  


9BB9BA20B8D84F8...  
Mark T. Newsome  
Chief Financial Officer  
North Carolina Department of Transportation

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