



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
US ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND  
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON, FORT LIBERTY  
2175 ROCK MERRITT AVENUE  
FORT LIBERTY, NC 28310-5000

August 18, 2023

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

Dear Mr. Buttigieg:

Fort Liberty strongly endorses and supports the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Multimodal Projects Discretionary Grant (MPDG) Program application to improve rural surface transportation in the North Carolina Sandhills Region. NCDOT's Maximizing our Rural Economy on I-74 Project (MORE I-74 Project) will improve 10 miles of US 74 to interstate standards. The Fort Liberty military community will benefit greatly from this transportation network improvement.

The MORE I-74 Project will improve economic competitiveness of multiple historically disadvantaged, persistent poverty, and rural communities along the MORE I-74 Project. The project improves freight mobility by connecting the Port of Wilmington with CSX Transportation's Hamlet Terminal and is a strategic investment in fortifying a rural region of the state whose prime geographic location, strong workforce development efforts, and multi-modal resilience via rail, highway, and airports can offer a unique blend of economic development opportunities.

As the nation's premier Power Projection Platform, my priority at Fort Liberty is to ensure the highest levels of unit readiness for our rapid deployment contingency forces. Fort Liberty must remain a ready, resilient, relevant, and innovative force. We want Fort Liberty to be the Army's installation of choice. An interstate connecting Hamlet and Laurinburg, NC would improve mission readiness, enhance resiliency, and improve quality of life for our military community.

I look forward to hearing about the outcome of the MPDG application. If you have additional questions, please contact Mr. Gray Cockerham; Chief of Plans, Analysis, and Integration Office, USAG Fort Liberty; email: [kenneth.g.cockerham.civ@army.mil](mailto:kenneth.g.cockerham.civ@army.mil); or phone: 910-432-4100.

Sincerely,

John Wilcox  
Colonel, U.S. Army  
Garrison Commander