

MORE I-74

Maximizing our Rural Economy



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

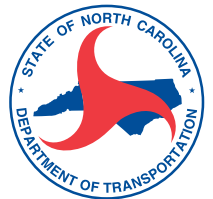




Table of Contents

Project Requirements 1

List of Tables

Table 1: Statutory Requirements for INFRA, Mega, and Rural Eligibility 1

Project Requirements

To select a project for award, NCDOT must determine that the project satisfies the following statutory requirements, shown in **Table 1**, are relevant to the program from which it will receive an award – Rural, INFRA, or Mega.

Table 1: Statutory Requirements for INFRA, Mega, and Rural Eligibility

23 U.S.C. 117 INFRA	49 U.S.C. 6701 Mega	23 U.S.C. 173 Rural	MORE I-74 Project Relevance
<p>The project will generate national, or regional economic mobility or safety benefits.</p>	<p>The project is likely to generate national or regional economic, mobility, safety benefits</p>	<p>The project will generate regional economic, mobility, or safety benefits</p>	<p>The MORE I-74 Project will support the region’s long-term economy by providing the workforce and residents of southeastern North Carolina with improved highway facilities, improving safety, providing access to opportunities for rural communities, and shoring up critical transportation routes to improve the movement of people and goods. Combined safety and economic benefits of the project total approximately \$172.5 million (discounted at 7%).</p>
<p>The project will be cost effective</p>	<p>The project will be cost effective</p>	<p>The project will be cost effective</p>	<p>The calculated BCA measuring costs and benefits (discounted at 7%) displays a positive return on investment ratio of 1.02, showing that the MORE I-74 project is both cost-effective and a tangible benefit to area communities.</p>

23 U.S.C. 117 INFRA	49 U.S.C. 6701 Mega	23 U.S.C. 173 Rural	MORE I-74 Project Relevance
<p>The project will contribute to 1 or more of the national goals described under Section 150¹</p>	<p><i>No statutory requirement</i></p>	<p>The project will contribute to 1 or more of the national goals described under Section 150¹</p>	<p>Numerous of the MORE I-74 Project goals align with the 23 U.S.C 150: National goals and performance management measures such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Widening roadway shoulders and enhancing visibility to achieve a significant reduction in traffic injuries and fatalities; - Providing pavement treatments to help maintain the longevity and functionality of roadways, thus maintaining a state of good repair; - Connecting two sections of existing Interstate to improve the consistency and efficiency of the transportation system; - And improving the National Highway Freight Network to accommodate rural community access to other markets and support regional economic development.
<p>The project is based on the results of preliminary engineering</p>	<p><i>No statutory requirement</i></p>	<p>The project is based on the results of preliminary engineering</p>	<p>NEPA documentation and preliminary roadway designs for this project are underway. If awarded, MPDG funds will be used for construction of the project. Current cost estimates are based on conceptual/functional designs and will continue to be updated as the project progresses.</p>

¹ [23 USC 150: National goals and performance management measures \(house.gov\)](https://www.congress.gov/bills/116/150/text/senate/1)

23 U.S.C. 117 INFRA	49 U.S.C. 6701 Mega	23 U.S.C. 173 Rural	MORE I-74 Project Relevance
<p>With respect to related non-federal financial commitments, 1 or more stable and dependable sources of funding and financing are available to construct, maintain, and operate the project, and contingency amounts are available to cover unanticipated cost increases</p>	<p>With respect to related non-federal financial commitments, 1 or more stable and dependable sources of funding and financing are available to construct, operate, and maintain the project, and to cover cost increases</p>	<p><i>No statutory requirement</i></p>	<p>The MORE I-74 Project is a priority and NCDOT is committed to advancing the project to provide benefits to users of Future I-74 and beyond. NCDOT can utilize other available state or federal funds to cover any overages, if needed.</p>
<p>The project cannot be easily and efficiently completed without other Federal funding or financing available to the project sponsor</p>	<p>The project is in significant need of Federal funding</p>	<p><i>No statutory requirement</i></p>	<p>The Current NCDOT State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) lists Highway Trust Funds as the source for preliminary engineering services on STIP Project No. I-6055, which covers the MORE I-74 corridor; however, the project still needs approximately \$224 million to be fully constructed.</p>

23 U.S.C. 117 INFRA	49 U.S.C. 6701 Mega	23 U.S.C. 173 Rural	MORE I-74 Project Relevance
<p>The project is reasonably expected to begin construction not later than 18 months after the date of obligation of funds for the project</p>	<p><i>No statutory requirement</i></p>	<p>The project is reasonably expected to begin construction not later than 18 months after the date of obligation of funds for the project</p>	<p>The environmental analysis and preliminary design stage is underway and scheduled for completion by early 2026. Project development will follow a necessary environmental schedule to complete key NEPA milestones, thus ensuring that construction begins within 18 months of award to sufficiently meet the statutory deadline to obligate funds by September 30, 2027 and begin construction by March 30, 2029.</p>
<p><i>No statutory requirement</i></p>	<p>The applicant has, or will have, sufficient legal, financial, and technical capacity to carry out the project</p>	<p><i>No statutory requirement</i></p>	<p>NCDOT is ready to successfully deliver the MORE I-74 Project in compliance with any applicable local, State, and Federal requirements, including but not limited to, Buy America provisions, ADA regulations, Civil Rights requirements, Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS), and/or the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSR). The Department has received and managed numerous discretionary grant awards successfully and has proven its technical experience and ability to dedicate resources to projects with a similar scope.</p>

23 U.S.C. 117 INFRA	49 U.S.C. 6701 Mega	23 U.S.C. 173 Rural	MORE I-74 Project Relevance
<p><i>No statutory requirement</i></p>	<p>The application includes a plan for the collection and analysis of data to identify the impacts of the project and accuracy of forecasts included in the application</p>	<p><i>No statutory requirement</i></p>	<p>NCDOT will use the Section 404/NEPA Merger Process to develop the MORE I-74 Project. This environmental streamlining strategy “merges” decision-making for two federal regulations, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). In the Merger Process, a team of agency representatives meet at seven strategic decision (concurrence) points in the NEPA/SEPA project development and permitting process to discuss and concur on major project decisions.</p>

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

MORE I-74

Maximizing our Rural Economy



N.C. Department of Transportation

1 South Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601

ncdot.gov

STAY CONNECTED



[/ncdot](https://www.facebook.com/ncdot)



[@ncdotcom](https://www.instagram.com/ncdotcom)



[@ncdot](https://twitter.com/ncdot)



[NCDOTcommunications](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCD0Tcommunications)