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May 6, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Secretary Buttigieg,

Greetings. The purpose of this letter is to convey Camden County's support of the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Turnpike Authority's submission of an application to the U.S. Department of Transportation for a Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) Opportunity to support the construction of the Mid-Currituck Bridge.

Currently there is only one crossing of the Currituck Sound along the North Carolina Coast, the Wright Memorial Bridge, on US 158 at the southern end of Currituck County near its border with Dare County. The Outer Banks is a major tourism destination in the Mid- Atlantic Region and an economic engine for northeastern North Carolina.

The Mid-Currituck Bridge project will substantially improve traffic flow on the thoroughfares in the project area, substantially reduce congestion and travel time for Outer Banks visitors and commuters, and provide a critically-needed second hurricane evacuation route from the northern Outer Banks.

Additional benefits of the project include reduction of operating costs for passenger cars and freight vehicles, the stimulation of tourism in Northeast North Carolina, and the improvement of public health by reducing air emissions from vehicles.

Even after accounting for funding from toll revenues and Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loans, additional funding is required. We fully support the North Carolina Turnpike Authority's application for \$425 million to expedite construction of this much-needed project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Burke", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Erin Burke
County Manager