



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

JOSH STEIN
GOVERNOR

DANIEL H. JOHNSON
SECRETARY

July 16, 2026

The Honorable Sean Duffy
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Letter of Financial Commitment - FY 2026 Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects (NSFLTP) Grant Program – NCDOT UWHARRIE Project: Utilizing Woodlands and Highways to Accelerate the Rebuilding of Rural Infrastructure and Economies Project (R-2527) – Widening of NC 24/27 from NC 73 to the Troy Bypass

To Secretary Duffy:

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) wishes to express its full support for the (UWHARRIE) Utilizing Woodlands and Highways to Accelerate the Rebuilding of Rural Infrastructure and Economies Project (R-2527) – Widening of NC 24/27 from NC 73 to the Troy Bypass (“the Project”), submitted to USDOT’s 2026 NSFLTP grant program.

The UWHARRIE project will modernize approximately 8.25 miles of NC 24/27 in Montgomery County, North Carolina, between NC 73 and the Troy Bypass. The project will reconstruct the existing two-lane highway as a four-lane divided facility featuring a 46-foot depressed median, 10-foot paved shoulders, use of unsignalized Restricted Crossing U-Turn (RCUT) intersection treatments, improved access management, replacement of the Norfolk Southern Railway bridge crossing, wildlife connectivity enhancements, and improvements to recreational access associated with Uwharrie National Forest. Project improvements will work in tandem with the Troy Bypass (Project R-0623) to the east and NC 24/27 (Project R-2530B) westward to Albemarle, which will create a higher-capacity regional transportation corridor that improves mobility, safety, freight efficiency, and economic competitiveness across central North Carolina.

NC 24/27 serves as a critical east-west corridor supporting freight movement, manufacturing, agriculture, forestry, tourism, and regional economic activity. By addressing existing and future transportation demands, the Project will improve travel-time reliability, strengthen supply-chain efficiency, enhance access to regional markets, and support long-term economic growth throughout Montgomery County and central North Carolina.

The Project also provides important benefits to federally managed lands and rural communities through improved access to the Uwharrie National Forest, one of North Carolina's premier outdoor recreation destinations, attracting approximately two million visitors annually. In coordination with the U.S. Forest Service, the Project includes trailhead parking improvements, accommodations for the Uwharrie Recreational Walking Trail, enhanced access for emergency response and forest

Mailing Address:
NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
SECRETARY'S OFFICE
1501 MAIL SERVICE CENTER
RALEIGH, NC 27699-1501

Telephone: 919-707-2800
Fax: 919-733-9150
Customer Service: 1-877-368-4968

Website: ncdot.gov

Location:
1 S WILMINGTON STREET
RALEIGH, NC 27601

management operations, and wildlife connectivity enhancements. These investments will improve visitor access, support tourism-related businesses, reduce wildlife-vehicle conflicts, and preserve ecological connectivity within the Uwharrie landscape.

The UWHARRIE Project represents a transformative investment in rural transportation infrastructure that advances mobility, safety, economic competitiveness, environmental stewardship, and recreation access through a single coordinated effort. NSFLTP funding will accelerate delivery of this regionally significant project and maximize benefits to residents, businesses, visitors, and the traveling public.

To that end, NCDOT will fund the UWHARRIE Project in the amount of \$30,732,152 in NCDOT State Highway Trust Funds.

Thank you for your consideration of the UWHARRIE Project for the FY 2026 NSFLTP grant program. If NCDOT can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 919-418-5858 or via e-mail at mnewsome2@ncdot.gov.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

9BB9BA20B8D84F8...

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