



File Code: 7730

Date: July 13, 2026

The Honorable Sean Duffy
Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Duffy,

The Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects (NSFLTP) competitive grant program of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) (Public Law 117-58, section 11127) provides funding for the construction, reconstruction, and rehabilitation of nationally significant projects within, adjacent to, or accessing Federal and Tribal lands. This program provides an opportunity to address significant challenges across the nation for transportation facilities that serve Federal and Tribal lands.

The National Forests in North Carolina supports the North Carolina Department of Transportation's "Utilizing Woodlands and Highways to Accelerate the Rebuilding of Rural Infrastructure and Economies (UWHARRIE)" NSFLTP grant application to widen NC 24/27 through the Uwharrie National Forest in Montgomery County. The project (TIP R-2527) seeks funding to expand the current two-lane roadway section to a four-lane divided highway. The Uwharrie NF has been coordinating with NCDOT for multiple years on the design and analysis for this project and will continue coordination during construction and implementation.

The U.S. Forest Service appreciates its partnership with NCDOT to improve access to the natural beauty and recreational opportunities in North Carolina.

Thank you for your consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,

JAMES E. MELONAS
Forest Supervisor

Cc: Susan Miller (susan.l.miller@usda.gov); Steven Hulsey (ext-shulsey@ncdot.gov)

