



North Carolina General Assembly
Senate

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The Honorable Sean Duffy
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington D.C. 20590

Subject: Letter of Support - 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 – Widening of NC 24/27 from NC 73 to the Troy Bypass

Dear Secretary Duffy:

On behalf of the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), I am writing in support of the UWHARRIE Project (R-2527) – Widening of NC 24/NC 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. The Project improvements will work in tandem with the Troy Bypass (Project R-0623) to the east and westward to Albemarle (Project R-2530B), creating 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 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.

Thank you for your consideration of the UWHARRIE Project for the FY 2026 NSFLTP grant program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave W. Craven". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Senator Dave Craven
Senate District 29