



July 13, 2026

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

Dear Secretary Duffy,

Moore County Economic Development Partnership (MCEDP) is pleased to express our support for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) application for improving Bragg Roads and Access for Greater Growth (iBRAGG) (or "the Project"), submitted to the U.S. Department of Transportation's FY 2026 Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects (NSFLTP) Program.

The Project will enhance safety and preserve critical transportation infrastructure along N.C. 690 (Lobelia Road) in Moore County, southeast of Vass, between McLaughlin Road/J. Burns Road (S.R. 2014) and Buffalo Creek. Key improvements include targeted safety enhancements at the intersections of McLaughlin Road/J. Burns Road and Morrison Ridge Road, as well as roadway reconstruction at locations with documented geometric deficiencies. These improvements address horizontal and vertical curve deficiencies near Little Creek and along the segment between Wright Road and Buffalo Creek, where roadway characteristics contribute to elevated safety concerns.

Designed in accordance with NCDOT's Resurfacing, Restoration, and Rehabilitation (3R) criteria, the Project focuses on extending the service life of the existing roadway while improving safety and operational performance. The proposed improvements will rehabilitate aging pavement, reduce crash risk, and address hazardous roadway curves and intersections while largely maintaining the existing corridor alignment. By modernizing critical roadway features and improving overall driving conditions, the Project will provide long-term transportation benefits for residents, visitors, and military personnel who rely on this corridor.

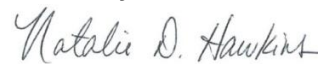
N.C. 690 serves as a critical access route to Fort Bragg, one of the largest and most strategically important military installations in the nation. The corridor supports daily travel by military personnel, civilian employees, contractors, residents, and visitors while connecting rural Moore County communities to employment centers, healthcare facilities, educational institutions, and commercial destinations. In addition, N.C. 690 provides an important route for the movement of agricultural and forestry products, supporting local farms, timber operations, and related industries that contribute to the region's economy. By enhancing the safety and reliability of this transportation link, the Project will improve access to significant federal resources and facilities,

strengthen military readiness, support the efficient movement of people and goods, promote regional economic activity, and enhance mobility for surrounding communities.

MCEDP is the economic development organization serving all of Moore County, NC. A safe, reliable, and well-maintained N.C. 690 corridor is a meaningful asset to MCEDP's efforts to attract and recruit new and expanding industries to our community. Site selectors and business decision-makers consistently cite transportation infrastructure and proximity to military installations as key factors in relocation and expansion decisions. By improving safety and reliability along this corridor connecting Moore County to Fort Bragg, the Project strengthens our community's competitiveness for advanced manufacturing, logistics, and defense-related businesses. These improvements will help MCEDP continue to market Moore County as a prime location for business investment, supporting job creation and long-term economic growth throughout the region.

The proposed improvements align closely with the goals of the NSFLTP Program by enhancing a vital transportation corridor that provides access to Fort Bragg and supports the movement of military personnel, residents, agricultural products, timber, and other goods throughout the region. Thank you for your consideration of NCDOT's NSFLTP grant application. This investment will improve roadway safety, strengthen access to critical federal resources, preserve essential transportation infrastructure, and promote reliable transportation connections that support military readiness, economic growth, freight mobility, and community connectivity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Natalie D. Hawkins".

Natalie D. Hawkins, PMP
President