



July 14, 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:

On behalf of the North Carolina Economic Development Association (NCEDA) and its more than 1,000 members, I am pleased to express our support 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.

NCEDA is comprised of local, regional and state economic development professionals and allies in industry, and we recognize the significance of this project for the region. The Project will improve 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. Improvements include intersection upgrades at McLaughlin Road/J. Burns Road and Morrison Ridge Road, as well as roadway reconstruction to correct documented horizontal and vertical curve deficiencies near Little Creek and between Wright Road and Buffalo Creek.

Designed in accordance with NCDOT’s Resurfacing, Restoration, and Rehabilitation (3R) criteria, the Project will extend 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 geometry while maintaining the existing corridor alignment.

N.C. 690 is a critical access route to Fort Bragg, one of the nation’s largest and most strategically important military installations. The corridor supports daily travel by military personnel, civilian employees, contractors, residents, and visitors while connecting rural Moore County communities to employment, healthcare, education, and commercial centers. It also serves as an important freight corridor for agricultural and forestry products that support the regional economy.



By improving the safety and reliability of this corridor, the Project will strengthen access to critical federal facilities, enhance military readiness, improve freight mobility, and support regional economic growth and community connectivity. These benefits directly align with the goals of the Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects (NSFLTP) Program.

Thank you for your consideration of NCDOT's NSFLTP grant application. This investment will improve roadway safety, preserve essential transportation infrastructure, and provide lasting transportation benefits for the military, local communities, businesses, and the traveling public.

Sincerely,

André Lennon
President
North Carolina Economic Development Association