

Attachment 10:

US 74 Flood Mitigation at the Lumber River - Letters of Support

Senator Danny Britt

Cape Fear RPO

City of Lumberton

City of Whiteville

Columbus County

Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina

North Carolina Ports

Robeson County

Town of Boardman

Town of Chadbourn

Town of Fair Bluff

Town of Fairmont



**North Carolina Flood Mitigation:
PROTECTING US 74 at the Lumber River**



North Carolina General Assembly
Senate

SENATOR DANNY EARL BRITT, JR.
24TH DISTRICT

OFFICE: 525 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
300 N. SALISBURY STREET
RALEIGH, NC 27603-5925
PHONE: (919) 733-5651
FAX: (919) 715-7586
EMAIL: DANNY.BRITT@NCLEG.GOV
DISTRICT: ROBESON, SCOTLAND & HOKE COUNTIES

COMMITTEES:

SENATE JUDICIARY, CO-CHAIR
APPROPRIATIONS, JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY,
CO-CHAIR
APPROPRIATIONS, BASE BUDGET
COMMERCE AND INSURANCE
FINANCE
HEALTH CARE
RULES AND OPERATIONS OF THE SENATE
JOINT COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

August 17, 2023

US Department of Transportation
The Office of the Honorable Secretary of Transportation, Pete Buttigieg
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: FY22-FY23 PROTECT – North Carolina Flood Mitigation: PROTECTing US 74 at the Lumber River

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the NCDOT's application to the U.S. Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration for the FY22-23 PROTECT Discretionary program.

We here at [agency] fully support the state's efforts to improve our/their residents' safety and quality of life, especially in the context of unforeseen natural events. We are encouraged by the prospect of funding coming to our region to enable NCDOT to respond proactively to the resilience needs of our state.

This resiliency grant request will allow the residents of both Robeson and Columbus counties and beyond, to achieve a greater degree of security in the face of catastrophic flooding. NCDOT is committed to responding to, planning, and investing in the challenges and infrastructure needs of tomorrow.

As we continue to look for opportunities to augment the federal highway system within our state this project has immense potential to ensure that we are able to withstand the impacts of climate change, including the flooding of the Lumber River, into the future.

We are proud to partner with the state in supporting highway projects of value which can save lives and keep our community moving after storms that are destined to come. The Lumber River crossing is part of rural North Carolina. Along with USDOT's commitment to rural America, NCDOT is prioritizing the needs of our residents in all geographies.



Their PROTECT grant request is an excellent investment in making North Carolina's roadway system resilient. If awarded, our office will work closely with the state and collaborate as partners to see this project to fruition.

We are very enthusiastic about the NCDOT's planned outcomes for enhanced resilience capacity along the US-74 corridor, and in particular the improvements that are planned for the Lumber River Crossing. Our residents and businesses depend on this corridor every day and more vitally during extreme weather events.

North Carolina would greatly benefit from this project, and it is without reservation that I ask that you give this proposal every appropriate consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a long, horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Senator Danny E. Britt, Jr.

The Cape Fear Rural Transportation Planning Organization serves as the intergovernmental organization for local elected officials, the North Carolina Department of Transportation, and residents of Brunswick, Columbus and Pender Counties to work cooperatively to address transportation issues.

August 17, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary
United State Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: NCDOT PROTECT Grant Letter of Support

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my support for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's PROTECT application to harden the shoulder near the Lumber River Crossing on US-74.

As a major vehicular thoroughfare, US-74 is the critical transportation link for millions of residents and visitors annually along southern North Carolina that extends to destinations from Wilmington to Charlotte, and beyond.

US-74 is critical to tourism and economic growth in our state. This major investment is an essential part of our collective effort to address resilience and infrastructure needs in North Carolina.

US-74 is a major evacuation route in this part of North Carolina, and we are aware of NCDOT's many efforts to provide early warnings and responses to hurricane landings along the coast. Restoring capacity on one of the most critical evacuation routes in this region will improve continuity of operations for residents, tourists, and emergency services.

The proposed US-74 improvements are an integral part of making the existing highway system better serve our residents and visitors. I believe this project is vital to the emergency preparedness and economic vitality of not only Columbus County, but this entire region of North Carolina.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sam Boswell, Director
Cape Fear Rural Transportation Planning Organization

City of  *Lumberton*

*Office Of
The City Manager*

August 17, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: NC Department of Transportation – PROTECT Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to express the City of Lumberton's support for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's PROTECT application, to harden the highway shoulder(s) near the Lumber River crossing on US-74.

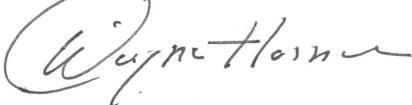
As a major vehicular thoroughfare, US-74 is the critical transportation link for millions of residents and visitors annually along southern North Carolina that extends all the way to destinations from Wilmington to Charlotte, and beyond. US-74 is critical to tourism and economic growth in our state. This major investment is essential in making a significant difference in our effort to address resilience and infrastructure needs in southeastern North Carolina.

US-74 is a significant evacuation route in this part of North Carolina, and we are keenly aware of NCDOT's many efforts to provide early warnings and responses to hurricanes making landfall along our coastline. Providing for restored capacity on one of the most critical evacuation routes in this region will improve continuity of operations for residents, tourists, and emergency services.

The proposed US-74 improvements are an integral part of enhancing the existing highway system to better serve our residents and visitors. We believe this project is vital to the emergency preparedness and economic vitality of not only the City of Lumberton, but this entire region of North Carolina.

Thank you for your kindest consideration.

Sincerely,



T. Wayne Horne
City Manager

Darren Currie
City Manager
Bonnie Williams
City Clerk
317 S. Madison Street
PO Box 607
Whiteville, NC 28472
910-642-8046
Whitevillecitync.gov



Terry L. Mann
Mayor
Jimmy Clarida
Mayor Pro-Tem
Tim Collier
Council Member
Helen B. Holden
Council Member
Vickie Pait
Council Member
Kevin G. Williamson
Council Member
Emory Worley
Council Member

August 17, 2023

U.S. Department of Transportation
c/o Secretary Buttigieg
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my support of the North Carolina Transportation's PROTECT application to harden the shoulder near the Lumber River Crossing on US-74.

As a major vehicular thoroughfare, US-74 is the critical transportation link for millions of residents and visitors annually along southern North Carolina that extends all the way to destinations from Wilmington to Charlotte, and beyond.

US -74 is critical to the tourism and economic growth in our state. This major investment is essential to make a significant difference in our effort to address resilience and infrastructure needs in North Carolina.

US 74 is a major evacuation route in this part of NC, and we are aware of NCDOT's many efforts to provide early warnings and responses to hurricane landing along the coast. Providing for restored capacity on one of the most critical evacuation routes in this region will improve continuity of operations for residents, tourists, and emergency services.

The proposed US-74 improvements are an integral part of making the existing highway system better serve our residents and visitors. I believe this project is vital to the emergency preparedness and economic vitality of not only Columbus County, but this entire region of North Carolina.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Darren Currie", is written over a white background.

Darren Currie
City Manager



Columbus County

ADMINISTRATION

TELEPHONE
910-640-6630



TELEFAX
910-640-1654

August 17, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my support of the North Carolina Transportation's PROTECT application to harden the shoulder near the Lumber River Crossing on US-74.

As a major vehicular thoroughfare, US-74 is the critical transportation link for millions of residents and visitors annually along southern North Carolina that extends all the way to destinations from Wilmington to Charlotte, and beyond.

US -74 is critical to the tourism and economic growth in our state. This major investment is essential to make a significant difference in our effort to address resilience and infrastructure needs in North Carolina.

US 74 is a major evacuation route in this part of NC, and we are aware of NCDOT's many efforts to provide early warnings and responses to hurricane landing along the coast. Providing for restored capacity on one of the most critical evacuation routes in this region will improve continuity of operations for residents, tourists, and emergency services.

The proposed US-74 improvements are an integral part of making the existing highway system better serve our residents and visitors. I believe this project is vital to the emergency preparedness and economic vitality of not only Columbus county, but this entire region of North Carolina.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edwin H. Madden, Jr.", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Edwin H. Madden, Jr.
County Manager

LUMBEE TRIBE OF NORTH CAROLINA

John L. Lowery | Lumbee Tribal Chairman



August 17, 2023

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my support of the North Carolina Transportation's PROTECT application to harden the shoulder near the Lumber River Crossing on US-74.

As a major vehicular thoroughfare, US-74 is the critical transportation link for millions of residents and visitors annually along southern North Carolina that extends all the way to destinations from Wilmington to Charlotte, and beyond.

US 74 is critical to tourism and economic growth in our state. This major investment is essential to make a significant difference in our effort to address resilience and infrastructure needs in North Carolina.

US 74 is a major evacuation route in this part of NC, and we are aware of NCDOT's many efforts to provide early warnings and responses to hurricane landing along the coast. Providing for restored capacity on one of the most critical evacuation routes in this region will improve continuity of operations for residents, tourists, and emergency services.

The proposed US-74 improvements are an integral part of making the existing highway system better serve our residents and visitors. I believe this project is vital to the emergency preparedness and economic vitality of not only Robeson County, but this entire region of North Carolina.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Harris". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rick Harris
Tribal Administrator

OFFICE OF THE LUMBEE TRIBAL CHAIRMAN

6984 Highway 711 W. | Pembroke, NC 28372 | 910.521.7861





August 17, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC, 20590

SUBJECT: FY22-FY23 PROTECT - North Carolina Flood Mitigation:
PROTECTing US 74 at the Lumber River

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) application to the U.S. Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration for the FY22-23 PROTECT Discretionary program for the North Carolina Flood Mitigation: PROTECTing US 74 at the Lumber River project.

North Carolina State Ports Authority (the "Authority") fully supports NCDOT's efforts to improve safety and quality of life, especially in the context of unforeseen natural events. We are encouraged by the prospect of funding to enable NCDOT to respond proactively to the resiliency needs of our region and state.

US 74 is the primary truck route for the Port of Wilmington and a major evacuation route in eastern NC, and we are aware of NCDOT's many efforts to provide early warnings and responses to emergencies at the coast. Providing for restored capacity and resiliency on this critical freight and evacuation route will improve continuity of operations for port customers, residents, and emergency services.

As NCDOT continues to look for opportunities to improve the federal highway system within North Carolina, this project has immense potential to ensure that we can withstand the impacts of climate change, including the flooding of the Lumber River, into the future. We are proud to partner with NCDOT in supporting highway projects of value which can save lives and keep cargo moving.



In conclusion, the Authority fully supports NCDOT as they seek federal funding under the PROTECT program to develop resilience for flood mitigation along US-74 at the Lumber River that will aim to reduce negative impacts to our transportation network; improving cargo movement resilience and public safety, especially as it relates to natural hazard events such as flooding. We encourage you to look favorably on their application. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "BEC", written over a light blue circular stamp.

Brian E. Clark
Executive Director



ROBESON COUNTY **Board of Commissioners**

Commissioners

Tom Taylor, Chairman
John Cummings, Vice Chairman

Pauline Campbell
Faline L. Dial

David Edge
Lance Herndon

Judy Sampson
Wixie Stephens

Kelle Hunt Blue, County Manager

K. Robert Davis
County Attorney

Hope Brayboy
Deputy Clerk to the Board

Tammy Freeman
Clerk to the Board

August 17, 2023

Honorable Pete Buttigieg
US Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my support of the North Carolina Transportation's PROTECT application to harden the shoulder near the Lumber River Crossing on US-74.

As a major vehicular thoroughfare, US-74 is the critical transportation link for millions of residents and visitors annually along southern North Carolina that extends all the way to destinations from Wilmington to Charlotte, and beyond.

US 74 is critical to tourism and economic growth in our state. This major investment is essential to make a significant difference in our effort to address resilience and infrastructure needs in North Carolina.

US 74 is a major evacuation route in this part of NC, and we are aware of NCDOT's many efforts to provide early warnings and responses to hurricane landing along the coast. Providing for restored capacity on one of the most critical evacuation routes in this region will improve continuity of operations for residents, tourists, and emergency services.

The proposed US-74 improvements are an integral part of making the existing highway system better serve our residents and visitors. I believe this project is vital to the emergency preparedness and economic vitality of not only Robeson County, but this entire region of North Carolina.

Page 2

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kellie Hunt Blue". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K".

Kellie Hunt Blue
County Manager

cc: Brice Bell, PE
NC District Engineer
Division 6

Town of Boardman

August 17, 2023

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my support of the North Carolina Transportation's PROTECT application to harden the shoulder near the Lumber River Crossing on US-74.

As a major vehicular thoroughfare, US-74 is the critical transportation link for millions of residents and visitors annually along southern North Carolina that extends all the way to destinations from Wilmington to Charlotte, and beyond.

US -74 is critical to the tourism and economic growth in our state. This major investment is essential to make a significant difference in our effort to address resilience and infrastructure needs in North Carolina.

US 74 is a major evacuation route in this part of NC, and we are aware of NCDOT's many efforts to provide early warnings and responses to hurricane landing along the coast. Providing for restored capacity on one of the most critical evacuation routes in this region will improve continuity of operations for residents, tourists, and emergency services.

The proposed US-74 improvements are an integral part of making the existing highway system better serve our residents and visitors. I believe this project is vital to the emergency preparedness and economic vitality of not only Columbus county, but this entire region of North Carolina.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Al Leonard

Town Planner

P.O. Box 87, Evergreen, NC 28438

Phone: 910-608-0390

Fax: 910-608-0335





Town Of Chadbourn

"The Strawberry Capital"

602 NORTH BROWN STREET • CHADBOURN, NORTH CAROLINA 28431

TELEPHONE: (910)654-4148

August 17, 2023

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my support of the North Carolina Transportation's PROTECT application to harden the shoulder near the Lumber River Crossing on US-74.

As a major vehicular thoroughfare, US-74 is the critical transportation link for millions of residents and visitors annually along southern North Carolina that extends all the way to destinations from Wilmington to Charlotte, and beyond.

US -74 is critical to the tourism and economic growth in our state. This major investment is essential to make a significant difference in our effort to address resilience and infrastructure needs in North Carolina.

US 74 is a major evacuation route in this part of NC, and we are aware of NCDOT's many efforts to provide early warnings and responses to hurricane landing along the coast. Providing for restored capacity on one of the most critical evacuation routes in this region will improve continuity of operations for residents, tourists, and emergency services.

The proposed US-74 improvements are an integral part of making the existing highway system better serve our residents and visitors. I believe this project is vital to the emergency preparedness and economic vitality of not only Columbus county, but this entire region of North Carolina.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Patricia E. Garrell
Interim Town Manager

COMMISSIONERS
RALPH McGOY
KATHY ASHLEY
CLARICE V. FAISON
GRAYSON JARVIS
SPRUELL R. BRITT



TOWN OF FAIR BLUFF

1054 Main St., Suite B - PO Box 157
Fair Bluff, N.C. 28439-0157

Phone (910) 649-7426 – Fax (910) 649-7151

BILLY W. HAMMOND
Mayor

PEGGY MOORE
Clerk-Treasurer

August 17, 2023

Pete Buttigieg
US Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my support of the North Carolina Transportation's PROTECT application to harden the shoulder near the Lumber River Crossing on US-74.

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US -74 is critical to the tourism and economic growth in our state. This major investment is essential to make a significant difference in our effort to address resilience and infrastructure needs in North Carolina.

US 74 is a major evacuation route in this part of NC, and we are aware of NCDOT's many efforts to provide early warnings and responses to hurricane landing along the coast. Providing for restored capacity on one of the most critical evacuation routes in this region will improve continuity of operations for residents, tourists, and emergency services.

The proposed US-74 improvements are an integral part of making the existing highway system better serve our residents and visitors. I believe this project is vital to the emergency preparedness and economic vitality of not only Columbus county, but this entire region of North Carolina.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Billy Hammond, Mayor

TOWN OF FAIRMONT

421 South Main Street, P.O. Box 248
Fairmont, NC 28340
Email: fairmontnc@bellsouth.net
www.fairmontnc.com

Phone: (910) 628-9766

Fax: (910) 628-6025

August 17, 2023

US Department of Transportation
c/o Secretary Pete Buttigieg
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to express my support of the North Carolina Transportation's PROTECT application to harden the shoulder near the Lumber River Crossing on US-74.

As a major vehicular thoroughfare, US-74 is the critical transportation link for millions of residents and visitors annually along southern North Carolina that extends all the way to destinations from Wilmington to Charlotte, and beyond. US 74 is critical to tourism and economic growth in our state. This major investment is essential to make a significant difference in our effort to address resilience and infrastructure needs in North Carolina. This area also serves as the main access point for our Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant that serves the towns of Fairmont, Fair Bluff, Cerro Gordo, Boardman, and Proctorville.

US 74 is a major evacuation route in this part of NC, and we are aware of NCDOT's many efforts to provide early warnings and responses to hurricane landing along the coast. Providing restored capacity on one of the most critical evacuation routes in this region will improve continuity of operations for residents, tourists, and emergency services.

The proposed US-74 improvements are an integral part of making the existing highway system better serve our residents and visitors. I believe this project is vital to the emergency preparedness and economic vitality of not only Robeson County, but this entire region of North Carolina.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jerome Chestnut
Town Manager
Town of Fairmont, NC
Office: (910) 628-9766
Cell: (931) 220-9267
Email: jchestnut@fairmontnc.gov