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January 29, 2025

US Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: FY2024-26 USDOT PROTECT Grant Application-North Carolina Department of Transportation**

Dear Secretary,

The Wilmington Urban Area Municipal Planning Organization (MPO) is pleased to endorse the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) application for the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program to fund the continued improvement and expansion of their nationally recognized transportation focused coastal flood warning tool, (Transportation Surge Analysis Prediction Program, T-SAPP).

NCDOT partners with local communities and MPO's to provide extensive forecasting modeling that supplies critical water surface elevation information used to identify flooding impacts to roads, bridges, and other critical transportation assets. These data in both forecasting and in real time gives local governments the information needed to respond effectively and potentially save lives. Historical data stored by the system also provides valuable information for planning and design to make the transportation system more resilient.

Expansion and enhancement of this tool will continue to provide great benefit for years to come. This effort will return significant benefits for public safety, mobility, and increased resilience and recovery response from coastal storm surge impacts. Specifically, incorporating inland riverine flooding and compound flooding will provide our MPO with increased flood awareness to our represented communities.

Thank you for considering NCDOT's application to advance a more resilient, efficient, and safe infrastructure network through the PROTECT Grant Program.

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Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

City of Wilmington • Town of Carolina Beach • Town of Kure Beach • Town of Wrightsville Beach  
County of New Hanover • Town of Belville • Town of Leland • Town of Navassa • County of Brunswick  
County of Pender • Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority • North Carolina Department of Transportation

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Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mike Kozlosky', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mike Kozlosky  
Executive Director