



## Wake County Fire Services & Emergency Management

TEL 919 856 6340

Department of Fire Services & Emergency Management  
331 S. McDowell St. • P.O. Box 550 • Raleigh, NC 27602  
[www.wake.gov](http://www.wake.gov)

October 7, 2026

The Honorable Sean Duffy  
Secretary of Transportation  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington DC, 20590

Dear Secretary Duffy:

On behalf of Wake County Fire Services and Emergency Management, I strongly support the North Carolina Department of Transportation's application for PROTECT Competitive Grant funding for the Wake County Bridge No. 371 (Project) resilience project on Holly Springs New Hill Road (SR 1152), a project intended to reduce recurrent flooding impacts, improve transportation-system resilience, and strengthen emergency-access reliability. The project is being developed under the PROTECT Competitive Grant Program to demonstrate transportation resilience benefits, community resilience, and evacuation-route benefits.

Bridge 371 and the adjacent Holly Springs New Hill Road corridor experience recurring flooding associated with the White Oak Creek floodplain, resulting in roadway overtopping, temporary closures, and transportation disruptions. NCDOT's proposed project would replace or improve the crossing, elevate approximately 2,000 feet of roadway, and enhance drainage and hydraulic performance to improve long-term resilience.

As a key connection between US 1 and NC 55 carrying approximately 7,900 vehicles per day, the corridor supports residents, businesses, emergency responders, and serves as an important emergency access and evacuation route. When flooding occurs, closures can require an approximate nine-mile detour, delay emergency response, disrupt community access, and expose motorists to hazardous flood conditions.

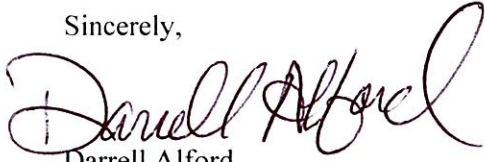
The area around this bridge has a long history of flooding leading not only to road closures, but often vehicles being trapped in flood waters. Recent flooding and road closures in this area, often for days at a time, include:

- April of 2017
- August of 2020
- January of 2021
- August of 2024
- September of 2024
- April of 2026
- July of 2026

The Wake County Fire Commission has established a 7-minute travel time goal for the first arriving fire apparatus in unincorporated Wake County. When this bridge closes or the road is closed due to flooding, the detour has the potential to add an additional 10 minutes to the response time of first responders.

By reducing flooding-related closures and strengthening evacuation and emergency access reliability, the project would improve the resilience, safety, and continuity of this critical transportation corridor. Wake County Fire Services and Emergency Management urges FHWA to give NCDOT's application full consideration and support the timely implementation of the Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Darrell Alford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Darrell" being more prominent than the last name "Alford".

Darrell Alford

Director

Wake County Fire Services and Emergency Management