



A Research Triangle Region Community

www.FranklinCountyNC.gov

County Manager's Office

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Phone 919.496.5994

October 8, 2026

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

Dear Secretary Duffy:

I am writing on behalf of Franklin County in support of the North Carolina Department of Transportation's application for a Resilience Improvement Grant through the PROTECT Competitive Grant Program to replace Bridge No. 99 on Clifton Pond Road (SR 1103) over Crooked Creek.

The existing bridge is immediately downstream of a historic masonry dam that has recently been reclassified as high hazard. NCDOT's technical evaluations indicate that significant bridge repairs or replacement near the existing alignment would be constrained by vibration and dam-safety risks. The proposed upstream alignment would move the bridge farther from the dam, reduce construction-related risk to the dam. The current roadway is a critical infrastructure component that allows the Bunn Fire Department to provide emergency services to the Triangle North Executive Airport which has an annual economic impact of over \$85,000,000 to the County.

Franklin County strongly supports NCDOT's proposed replacement and realignment of Bridge No. 99. This investment would improve emergency access, transportation reliability, and long-term resilience for the residents and public services that rely on Clifton Pond Road. I urge the Federal Highway Administration to give the application favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Preble", is written over a horizontal line.

Ryan Preble, County Manager

To provide and support exemplary public service and expand economic opportunities.