



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

JOSH STEIN  
GOVERNOR

DANIEL H. JOHNSON  
SECRETARY

October 8, 2026

The Honorable Sean Duffy  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Honorable Sean Duffy:

On behalf of the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), I confirm NCDOT's commitment of \$3,486,000 from NCDOT's Division 5 Bridge Funds (\$1,308,052.93) and Detail Fund 390115B (\$2,177,947.07) toward the replacement and realignment of Bridge No. 99 on Clifton Pond Road (SR 1103) over Crooked Creek in Franklin County. NCDOT is requesting \$13,944,000 through the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation Program (PROTECT) Competitive Grant Program for a total eligible project cost of \$17,430,000.

The project will replace Bridge No. 99 and shift the roadway to a western alignment farther from the Upper Clifton Pond Dam. The existing bridge is immediately downstream of a historic masonry dam that was recently 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 Upper Dam, reduce construction-related risk to the dam, and provide a more dependable transportation connection.

NCDOT's commitment represents twenty percent of eligible project costs and will support the construction phase of the Project. The funds will be available upon a PROTECT grant award.

NCDOT has a strong track record of managing grants effectively and ensuring that all financial commitments are met responsibly. NCDOT is confident in our ability to meet the obligations of this project.

I appreciate USDOT's commitment to this transformational project. If you require any additional information or have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 919-418-5858 or [mnewsome2@ncdot.gov](mailto:mnewsome2@ncdot.gov).

Sincerely,

Signed by:

*Mark Newsome*

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Mark T. Newsome

Chief Financial Officer

North Carolina Department of Transportation