



North Carolina General Assembly  
House Of Representatives

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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:

As NC House Representative for District 7, which includes Franklin County, I am pleased to support of the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) application for a Resilience Improvement Grant through the PROTECT Competitive Grant Program to replace and realign Bridge No. 99 (Project) on Clifton Pond Road (SR 1103) over Crooked Creek in Franklin County.

Bridge No. 99 is in poor condition and currently operates under a 7-ton weight restriction that prevents fire trucks and full-sized school buses from using the crossing. During past closures, emergency responders relied on alternate routes, increasing response times in portions of the service area. A long-term closure would further disrupt access for residents and essential public services.

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 dam, reduce construction-related risk to the dam, and provide a more dependable transportation connection.

For these reasons, I strongly support NCDOT's proposed replacement and realignment of Bridge No. 99 and respectfully urge the Federal Highway Administration to give the application favorable consideration. This investment would improve emergency access, transportation reliability, and long-term resilience for my district and its constituents.

Sincerely,

Matthew Winslow

