

Sugar & Spice Dancewear and Ladies Boutique

730 S. Madison St

Whiteville NC 28472

October 5, 2026

Dear Secretary Duffy

This letter is to express the strong support of Sugar & Spice Dancewear and Ladies Boutique for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's Madison Street Bridge expansion project in the City of Whiteville, Columbus County, North Carolina. As a business owner, I feel that this project will improve the Madison Street crossing over Soules swamp by extending the existing bridge and adding a second bridge. These improvements will help the roadway to better handle heavy rainfall and flooding events. Flooding is a recurring issue along Madison Street and throughout downtown Whiteville during heavy rainfall events. Downtown business owners have worked hard to keep their businesses going. Improving the bridge crossing would reduce flooding in the area and allow rainwater to recede more quickly. I think the project would help reduce road closures, improve access to downtown Whiteville, and provide more reliable travel for all roadway users during and after heavy rainfall events.

Specifically for Sugar & Spice Dancewear and Ladies Boutique, the importance of the Madison Street Bridge Expansion project can help roadway closure, travel delays, and it would improve emergency access to the downtown area. The employees, and customers would benefit from this Madison Street Bridge Expansion Project.

The Madison street Bridge Expansion project represents a strategic investment in transporation resilience, mobility, public safety, and long-term vitality of Downtown Whiteville and Columbus County as a region. I respectfully urge your full consideration and support for funding that will allow North Carolina DOT to advance and complete this important project, providing lasting benefits to the City of Whiteville, Columbus County, and

Southeastern North Carolina.

Thank you for your consideration of this meritorious grant and your commitment to our nation's critical transportation system.

Sincerely,

Tricia Bowen, Business Owner

Sugar & Spice Dancewear and Ladies Boutique