

Columbus County
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION



October 1st, 2026

The Honorable Sean Duffy

Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.

Washington, DC 20590

Re: Madison Street Bridge Expansion Project – PROTECT Grant Application

Dear Secretary Duffy:

On behalf of the Columbus County Economic Development Commission, I am pleased to express our strong support for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's Madison Street Bridge Expansion Project in the City of Whiteville.

The Madison Street Bridge is an important connection for residents, businesses, emergency responders, and visitors. The proposed project would extend the existing bridge and add a second bridge over Soules Swamp, improving the roadway's ability to remain accessible during heavy rainfall and flooding events.

Recurring flooding along Madison Street can result in roadway closures and limited access to downtown Whiteville. This project would help reduce flooding impacts, improve mobility, and provide more reliable access to downtown businesses and services.

From an economic development perspective, reliable transportation infrastructure is essential to supporting local businesses, attracting investment, and maintaining a strong and resilient community.

The Columbus County Economic Development Commission respectfully encourages the U.S. Department of Transportation to support funding for this important project and its long-term benefits to Whiteville and Columbus County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dylan Bowen

Director of Economic Development for Columbus County

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