

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 - Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative,

Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation (PROTECT) Grant Application

Dear Secretary Duffy:

This letter is to express the strong support of Whiteville License Plate Agency Inc for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's Madison Street Bridge Expansion project in the City of Whiteville, Columbus County, North Carolina. The project will improve Madison Street (US 701 Business) 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, keeping this important connection open for residents, businesses, emergency responders and travelers.

Flooding is a recurring issue along Madison Street and throughout downtown Whiteville during heavy rainfall events. Improving the bridge crossing would reduce flooding in the area and allow rainwater to recede more quickly after heavy rainfall events. As a result, 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 Whiteville License Plate Agency Inc, the importance of the Madison Street Bridge Expansion project can be summarized by allowing full access to our business, which is crucial to the motoring public in our county.

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

transportation system.

Sincerely,

Pamela Merritt, Owner

Whiteville License Plate Agency Inc