US 701 BUSINESS (MADISON STREET) AT SOULES SWAMP PROJECT

NCDOT, Priority 7

LETTER OF FINANCIAL COMMITMENT



OCTOBER 2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

JOSH STEIN
GOVERNOR

DANIEL H. JOHNSON
SECRETARY

October 8, 2026

The Honorable Sean Duffy
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Letter of Financial Commitment for the Madison Street Bridge Expansion Project - Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation (PROTECT) Grant Application

Dear Secretary Duffy,

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is pursuing grant funding from the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation (PROTECT) Grant Program for the Madison Street Bridge Expansion project in the City of Whiteville, Columbus County, North Carolina. The project will improve the 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.

The Madison Street Bridge Expansion project represents a strategic investment in transportation resilience, mobility, public safety, and long-term vitality of downtown Whiteville and Columbus County as a region. To that end, NCDOT requests $10,800,000 in PROTECT grant funds and commits $2,700,000 towards the application's non-federal match.

We appreciate your consideration of this very important grant for the State of North Carolina. If NCDOT can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 919-418-5858 or via e-mail at mnewsome2@ncdot.gov.

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Sincerely,

Signed by:
Mark Newsome
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Mark Newsome
Chief Financial Officer
North Carolina Department of Transportation