

T² GENERAL CONTRACTORS

817-B South Madison Street | Whiteville, NC

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:

On behalf of T² General Contractors, I am writing to express our strong support for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's Madison Street Bridge Expansion project in the City of Whiteville, Columbus County, North Carolina.

T² General Contractors is headquartered at 817-B South Madison Street in downtown Whiteville, placing our business directly within the area affected by recurring flooding and associated roadway closures. While our building itself has not flooded, we have seen firsthand the effects that heavy rainfall and flooding have on the streets, businesses, properties, and overall accessibility of downtown Whiteville.

The Madison Street Bridge Expansion project would improve the Madison Street (US 701 Business) crossing over Soules Swamp by extending the existing bridge and adding a second bridge. Improving this crossing would help the roadway better accommodate heavy rainfall and flooding events, reduce roadway closures, and allow floodwaters to recede more quickly.

For T² General Contractors and the properties and businesses we serve, this project is particularly important because:

- Our office is located directly on South Madison Street, and street closures caused by flooding require our employees and construction crews to reroute, creating delays and reducing accessibility throughout downtown.
- T² currently supports an operations team and construction workforce of approximately seven people who regularly travel between our Whiteville office, suppliers, clients, and active construction projects throughout the region.
- We manage and maintain multiple properties in the downtown Whiteville area, including apartment properties that have experienced flooding as well as property at 115 West Main Street. Reliable access during and following major rainfall events is important for responding to these properties and assisting the people and businesses we serve.
- Downtown Whiteville continues to attract retail businesses and private investment. Recurring flooding and roadway closures affect not only individual properties but also customer access, business activity, emergency response, and confidence in the continued growth of the downtown district.
- Improving the Madison Street crossing would strengthen the resiliency of downtown Whiteville's transportation infrastructure and provide more dependable access for residents, businesses, contractors, emergency responders, and visitors.

The Madison Street Bridge Expansion project represents an important investment in transportation resilience, public safety, economic activity, and the long-term vitality of downtown Whiteville and Columbus County. As a business headquartered directly on Madison Street and actively involved in maintaining and improving properties throughout the downtown area, T² General Contractors strongly supports NCDOT's efforts to secure funding for this project.

I respectfully urge your full consideration and support for the PROTECT Grant funding necessary to advance and complete this important project.

Thank you for your consideration and your commitment to strengthening our nation's critical transportation infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Michael Thompson
Owner/President
T² General Contractors
817-B South Madison Street
Whiteville, NC