

Whiteville Family Pharmacy

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October 5, 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:

I am writing on behalf of Whiteville Family Pharmacy to express our strong support for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's Madison Street Bridge Expansion project in Whiteville and Columbus County.

The Madison Street (US 701 Business) bridge over Soules Swamp is an important part of getting people in and out of downtown Whiteville. Extending the existing bridge and adding a second bridge would help this section of Madison Street better handle heavy rainfall and flooding and, most importantly, help keep the road open when our community needs it most.

Flooding along Madison Street is something our community has dealt with repeatedly during periods of heavy rain. For us as a pharmacy, this is more than an inconvenience. Our patients need to be able to get to the pharmacy to pick up their medications, talk with our pharmacists, receive vaccinations, and take care of other important healthcare needs. Many of the people we serve are older adults or have ongoing health conditions, so being able to reliably get their medications is especially important.

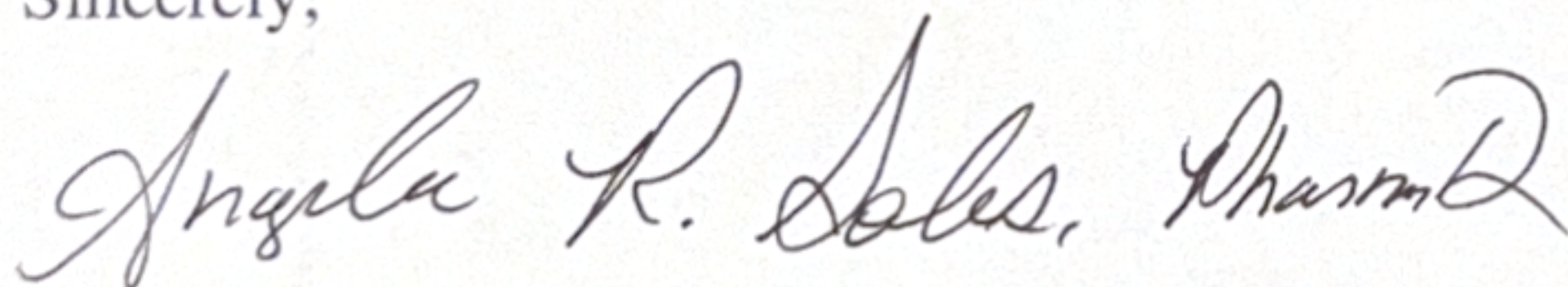
This project would make a real difference for Whiteville Family Pharmacy and the people we serve by:

- Keeping access to essential medications more reliable. Our patients depend on us for medications they need every day. When flooding closes roads or makes travel difficult, getting to the pharmacy can become much harder.
- Helping our older and more vulnerable patients. Some of our patients have limited mobility or rely on family members and caregivers for transportation. Having a dependable route into downtown Whiteville is important for them.
- Helping us remain accessible during severe weather. Flooding can affect our employees, patients, deliveries, and day-to-day operations. Improving the bridge would make it easier for our pharmacy and other downtown businesses to continue serving the community.
- Improving access for emergency and healthcare needs. When someone needs a medication urgently, every extra delay matters. A more reliable route through this area would benefit patients, emergency responders, and other healthcare services.
- Supporting downtown Whiteville businesses. Whiteville Family Pharmacy is a locally owned business located on South Madison Street. We are proud to be part of the Whiteville community, and we know how important it is for residents to have dependable access to the businesses and services located downtown.
- Reducing the impact of detours and road closures. When Madison Street is affected by flooding, people may have to use the US 701 Bypass or other alternate routes. This adds time and makes it more difficult for patients, employees, deliveries, and emergency services to get where they need to go.
- Making Whiteville better prepared for future flooding. Improving this bridge would not only address a current problem, but would help make our community more resilient when heavy rainfall and flooding occur in the future.

Whiteville Family Pharmacy has been part of this community for generations, and we see every day how important reliable access to local businesses and healthcare services is to the people of Whiteville and Columbus County. Keeping Madison Street open and accessible is important to our patients, our employees, our business, and the community as a whole. We respectfully ask that you give this project full consideration for PROTECT funding so that NCDOT can move forward with the Madison Street Bridge Expansion. This project would make a meaningful difference in keeping people connected to downtown Whiteville, improving access to essential services, and helping our community remain accessible during severe weather.

Thank you for your consideration and for your work to support safer and more reliable transportation infrastructure in communities like ours.

Sincerely,



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