AGGREGATES • AGRICULTURE • ASPHALT
PO Box 911, Mountain City, TN 37683

October 5, 2026

The Honorable Sean Duffy
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Duffy:

On behalf of Maymead, Incorporated, I am pleased to express our strong support for North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT)'s NC 105 Resilience, Capacity and Slope Stabilization Project ("the Project"), submitted to the U.S. Department of Transportation's FY 2024-2026 Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation (PROTECT) Grant Program.

The Project focuses on 5.5 miles of NC 105 from Shulls Mill Road (SR 1568) to NC 105 Bypass (SR 1107) in Boone, Watauga County. This corridor faces significant challenges due to steep terrain and proximity to the Watauga River and local tributaries. The roadway serves as a vital route for emergency response, medical access, freight movement, tourism, and daily commuting, as well as a critical role in the region's mobility and economic vitality as redundant routes of travel are limited. In addition, the region's primary suppliers of aggregate, hot mix asphalt, and ready mix concrete are located within this corridor. However, it is highly vulnerable to severe weather events, including intense rainfall, flash flooding, and winter storms, which impact slope stability and affect the existing drainage infrastructure and cause roadway inundation. This was evidenced during Hurricane Helene, which resulted in numerous landslides along NC 105 and damaged drainage infrastructure along the corridor, including a culvert carrying Valley Creek beneath the roadway in Watauga County. Immediately after the storm, the NC 105 corridor was the #1 priority for NCDOT to reopen in the Department's 11th Highway Division due to the critical role this roadway would go on to play during recovery operations.

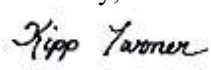
For families, residents, workers, and businesses, a more resilient N.C. 105 corridor will enhance economic benefits by minimizing detours during closures, reducing travel costs and delays, and supporting reliable access throughout the High-Country region, including medical access and access to construction materials during natural disaster recovery operations. The Project includes roadway widening, intersection improvements, paved shoulders, and a raised median to improve traffic flow and reduce crashes, in addition to upgraded drainage infrastructure and slope-stabilization measures to address flooding, erosion, and rockslide risks.

Maymead is a family owned company serving western North Carolina, southwest Virginia, and east Tennesse through its materials production, three concrete ready mix facitities, highway construction operations, asphalt recycling, and seventeen asphalt plant locations. We operate in a considerably large area in western North Carolina and were able to provide essential services in response to Hurricane Helene in 2024. Maymead understands the importance of our facilities along the corridor of the subject NC 105 project and in fact owns and operates one of our asphalt plants directly adjacent to the widening project. Our owners, Mr. Wiley Roark and the Roark family strongly support this project.

Thank you for your consideration of NCDOT's PROTECT grant application, which will reduce climate-related disruptions, improve emergency access, and protect this critical route for residents, businesses, freight traffic, and visitors in Watauga County.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at (828) 320-3336 or via email at kturner@maymead.com.

Sincerely,



Kipp Turner, PE
VP-Construction

CC:
Mr. Wiley Roark, Owner, Maymead Inc.