October 7, 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:

The Regional Transportation Alliance, the voice of the regional business community in North Carolina's metropolitan Triangle area, applauds and supports the efforts of NCDOT as they continue their recovery efforts from Hurricane Helene that are improving travel and accessibility to and within western N.C.

We believe that NCDOT's application under the USDOT FY2024-26 PROTECT grant program will advance essential transportation resiliency by improving emergency access and protecting a vital roadway corridor for residents, businesses, freight traffic, as well as for tourists and visitors to our friends in northwestern North Carolina.

RTA thanks you for your consideration of NCDOT's PROTECT grant application. Given the destruction of Hurricane Helene and the associated damage to transportation, the need for resilient and improved mobility infrastructure in western N.C. is clear, and this USDOT grant program would successfully leverage and enhance NCDOT's recovery efforts.

Thank you for your consideration of this funding request. Please contact me at 919.664.7065 or joe@letsgetmoving.org with questions.

Sincerely,



Joe Milazzo II, PE
Executive Director,
Regional Transportation Alliance