NCDOT Priority 1

2026 Protect - NC STRONG

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- NOAA National Weather Service
- US Geological Survey
- US Marine Corps

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State Government

- NC Coastal Federation
- NCDEQ Flood Resiliency Blueprint
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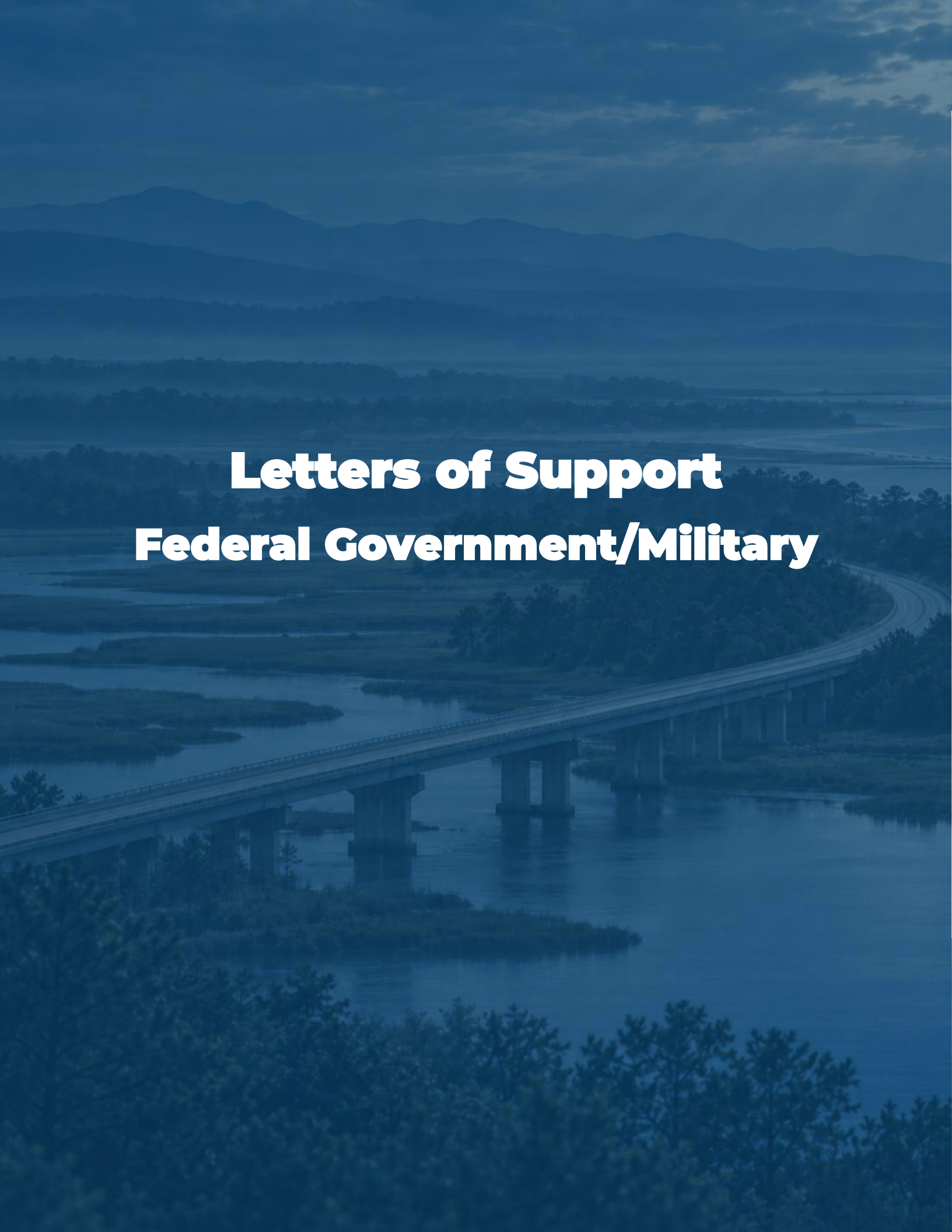
- NC Emergency Management
- NC State Climate Office
- NC State University Climate and Sustainability Academy
- UNC Center for Natural Hazards Resilience

Local Government

- City of Asheville
- City of Jacksonville
- Town of Bellville
- Lumber River Council of Governments
- French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

Additional Stakeholders

- Down East Resilience Network
- Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina
- River Arts District



Letters of Support
Federal Government/Military

September 30, 2026

Yolanda K. Jordan
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration-North Carolina Division
310 New Bern Avenue, Suite 410
Raleigh, NC 27601-1418

Dear Division Administrator Jordan,

I am writing on behalf of the Highways for National Defense (HND) Program in strong support of the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) application for the FHWA PROTECT Program for the NC STRONG initiative. As the Department of War (DoW) designated agent for public highway matters representing DoW and U.S. Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM), I liaise directly with FHWA and State DOTs to preserve infrastructure critical for rapid military deployment.

North Carolina hosts vital Power Projection Platforms—including Fort Bragg, MCB Camp Lejeune, and Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point (MOTSU)—alongside Strategic Seaports at Wilmington and Morehead City. Readiness and deployment depend on the Strategic Highway Network (STRAHNET), freight corridors (I-95, I-40, US-17), and port connectors that face recurring flood risks.

NC STRONG mitigates these vulnerabilities by unifying NCDOT's flood warning systems—T-SAPP surge modeling, FIMAN inundation mapping across 870+ gauges, BridgeWatch monitoring of 15,000+ structures, and DriveNC routing—to deliver real-time decision support for military logistics, emergency responders, and freight operators before, during, and after severe events.

The HND Program strongly endorses NCDOT's application and respectfully urges FHWA to fund this vital initiative. For questions, please contact me at (618) 817-8536 or douglas.e.briggs.civ@mail.mil.

We appreciate your coordination on this matter. If you have any further questions, please feel free to call me at (618) 817-8536 or email me at douglas.e.briggs.civ@mail.mil.

Sincerely,

Douglas E. Briggs, P.E.
Chief, Highways for National Defense

September 24, 2026

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

Re: Letter of Support – North Carolina Department of Transportation
FY2024–FY2026 USDOT PROTECT Application

Dear Secretary Duffy,

The National Weather Service Raleigh Forecast Office is pleased to support the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program. Funding will improve and expand nationally recognized transportation-focused flood-resilience and -response tools that together allow for NCDOT, federal, state, local agencies, and the traveling public to more proactively prepare for, respond to, and recover from statewide flood threats. The application is titled **N**orth **C**arolina **S**ustainable solutions for **T**ransforming flooding prediction to build **R**esilient infrastructure and **O**ptimized operations through **N**ext-generation tools and **G**roundbreaking innovation, or **NC STRONG** for short.

These systems are essential for providing public safety and economic continuity during flood events. Together, they help determine and anticipate flood and storm surge impacts and identify critical assets at risk. By connecting hazard information before, during, and after hazardous events, the framework informs emergency routing, inspection priorities, critical-corridor identification, and coordination among state and local agencies, emergency responders, businesses, and communities. Through this grant, NCDOT's suite of flood warning tools will strengthen North Carolina's ability to anticipate disruptions, reduce community isolation, maintain access to critical services and economic centers, prioritize resilient investments, and accelerate post-disaster recovery.

The National Weather Service Raleigh Forecast Office strongly supports this application and respectfully encourages the Federal Highway Administration to fund the framework's progression that protects public safety, maintains critical access, reduces isolation, bolsters economic continuity, and improves resilient investment decisions.

Sincerely,



Nicholas Petro
Warning Coordination Meteorologist
National Weather Service Raleigh Forecast Office
1005 Capability Drive, Suite 300, Raleigh, NC 27606
Nicholas.Petro@noaa.gov

United States Department of the Interior
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
South Atlantic Water Science Center
1770 Corporate Drive, Suite 500
Norcross, Georgia 30093

September 30, 2026

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

Re: Letter of Support – North Carolina Department of Transportation
FY2024–FY2026 USDOT PROTECT Application

Dear Secretary Duffy,

The South Atlantic Water Science Center, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), has reviewed the proposed work of the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) on the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program application entitled: "**N**orth **C**arolina **S**ustainable solutions for **T**ransforming flooding prediction to build **R**esilient infrastructure and **O**ptimized operations through **N**ext-generation tools and **G**roundbreaking innovation," or **NC STRONG** for short. This proposed work will have a positive impact on flood emergency preparedness and network resiliency. NC STRONG will leverage real-time water data from the USGS, enabling prompt decision-making and actions that will protect life and property during floods.

Please be advised that this letter is not a commitment of Government resources but is written in support of the project's scientific and scholarly activities and mission relevance. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this scientific effort.

Sincerely,

JOHN JOINER Digitally signed by JOHN JOINER Date: 2026.09.30 07:18:10 -04'00'

John K. Joiner, Acting Center Director
U.S. Geological Survey
South Atlantic Water Science Center

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS EAST-MARINE CORPS BASE
PSC BOX 20005
CAMP LEJEUNE NC 28542-0005

11120
G-7
15 Sep 26

Mr. Daniel H. Johnson
NC Secretary of Transportation
Transportation Building
1 S. Wilmington Street Raleigh, NC 27601

Dear Secretary Johnson,

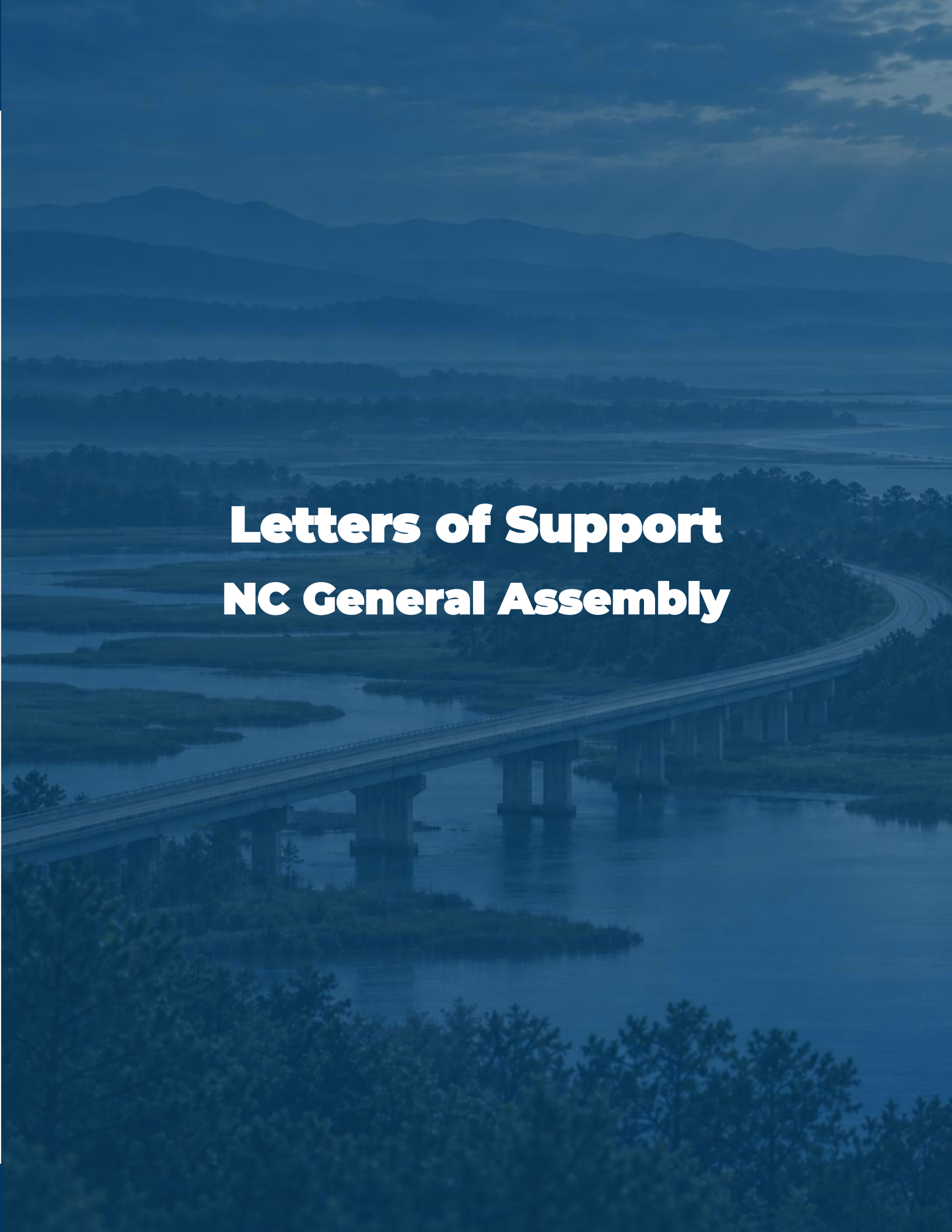
This letter is provided in support of the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) application for the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program to fund the continued improvement and expansion of their nationally recognized transportation focused coastal flood warning tool (Transportation Surge Analysis Prediction Program, T-SAPP).

NCDOT partners with Marine Corps Installation EAST-Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune (MCIEAST-MCB CAMLEJ) to provide extensive forecasting modeling that supplies critical water surface elevation information used to identify flooding impacts to roads, bridges, and other critical transportation assets. These data in both forecasting and in real time gives MCIEAST-MCB CAMLEJ information needed to respond effectively. Historical data stored by the system also provides valuable information for planning and design to make the transportation system more resilient.

Expansion and enhancement of this tool will continue to provide great benefit for years to come. This effort will return significant benefits for military readiness, mobility, and increased resilience and recovery response from coastal storm surge impacts. Specifically, incorporating inland riverine flooding and compound flooding will provide MCIEAST-MCB CAMLEJ with increased flood awareness.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL L. SCALISE
By Direction
of the Commanding General



Letters of Support
NC General Assembly

North Carolina General Assembly
Senate

SENATOR TED ALEXANDER
44TH DISTRICT

October 7, 2026

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

Subject: NCDOT FY2024–FY2026 USDOT PROTECT Application- NC STRONG.

Dear Secretary Duffy,

I am pleased to support the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program. Funding will improve and expand nationally recognized transportation-focused flood-resilience and response tools that together allow for NCDOT, federal, state, local agencies, and the traveling public to more proactively prepare for, respond to, and recover from statewide flood threats. The application is titled **N**orth **C**arolina **S**ustainable Solutions for **T**ransforming flooding prediction to build **R**esilient infrastructure and **O**ptimized operations through **N**ext-generation tools and **G**roundbreaking innovation, or **NC STRONG** for short.

These systems are essential for providing public safety and economic continuity during flood events which we experience both on our east coast and the western part of our western part of our state as seen with Hurricane Helene. Together, they help determine and anticipate flood and storm surge impacts and identify critical assets at risk. By connecting hazard information before, during, and after hazardous events, the framework informs emergency routing, inspection priorities, critical-corridor identification, and coordination among state and local agencies, emergency responders, businesses, and communities. Through this grant, NCDOT's suite of flood warning tools will strengthen North Carolina's ability to anticipate disruptions, reduce community isolation, maintain access to critical services and economic centers, prioritize resilient investments, and accelerate post-disaster recovery.

I strongly support this application and respectfully encourage the Federal Highway Administration to fund the framework's progression that protects public safety, maintains critical access, reduces isolation, bolsters economic continuity, and improves resilient investment decisions.

Sincerely,

Senator W. Ted Alexander
N.C. Senate District 44
Ted.Alexander@ncleg.gov

North Carolina General Assembly
Senate

SENATOR JAY J. CHAUDHURI
DISTRICT 15
1117 LEGISLATIVE BUILDING
16 WEST JONES STREET
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA 27601-2808
PHONE: (919) 715-6400
FAX: (919) 754-3156
EMAIL: jay.chaudhuri@ncleg.gov

COMMITTEES
AGRICULTURE, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT
APPROPRIATIONS ON EDUCATION/ HIGHER EDUCATION
COMMERCE AND INSURANCE
EDUCATION / HIGHER EDUCATION
RULES & OPERATIONS OF THE SENATE
TRANSPORTATION

October 7, 2026

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

Subject: Letter of Support – North Carolina Department of Transportation FY2024–FY2026 USDOT PROTECT Application- **N**orth **C**arolina **S**ustainable Solutions for **T**ransforming flooding prediction to build **R**esilient infrastructure and **O**ptimized operations through **N**ext-generation tools and **G**roundbreaking innovation, or **NC STRONG**.

Dear Secretary Duffy,

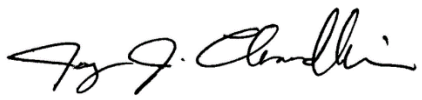
I am pleased to support the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program. Funding will improve and expand nationally recognized transportation-focused flood-resilience and -response tools that together allow for NCDOT, federal, state, local agencies, and the traveling public to more proactively prepare for, respond to, and recover from statewide flood threats. The application is titled **N**orth **C**arolina **S**ustainable Solutions for **T**ransforming flooding prediction to build **R**esilient infrastructure and **O**ptimized operations through **N**ext-generation tools and **G**roundbreaking innovation, or **NC STRONG** for short.

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I strongly support this application and respectfully encourage the Federal Highway Administration to fund the framework's progression that protects public safety, maintains critical access, reduces isolation, bolsters economic continuity, and improves resilient investment decisions.

Sincerely,



Senator Jay J. Chaudhuri
District 15
North Carolina State Senate

North Carolina General Assembly
Senator Jonah Garson
16 W. Jones Street, Room 1121
Raleigh, NC 27601-1096
919 733-5804
Jonah.Garson@ncleg.gov

October 9, 2026

The Honorable Sean Duffy
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590-001

Subject: Letter of Support – North Carolina Department of Transportation FY2024–FY2026 USDOT PROTECT Application- **N**orth **C**arolina **S**ustainable Solutions for **T**ransforming flooding prediction to build **R**esilient infrastructure and **O**ptimized operations through **N**ext-generation tools and **G**roundbreaking innovation, or **NC STRONG**.

Dear Secretary Duffy,

As the North Carolina state senator representing District 23 (serving Caswell, Orange, and Person Counties) I am pleased to support the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program. Funding will improve and expand nationally recognized transportation-focused flood-resilience and -response tools that together allow for NCDOT, federal, state, local agencies, and the traveling public to more proactively prepare for, respond to, and recover from statewide flood threats. The application is titled **N**orth **C**arolina **S**ustainable Solutions for **T**ransforming flooding prediction to build **R**esilient infrastructure and **O**ptimized operations through **N**ext-generation tools and **G**roundbreaking innovation, or **NC STRONG** for short.

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I strongly support this application and respectfully encourage the Federal Highway Administration to fund the framework's progression that protects public safety, maintains critical access, reduces isolation, bolsters economic continuity, and improves resilient investment decisions.

Sincerely,

Jonah Garson
North Carolina
State Senate District 23

North Carolina General Assembly
Senate Chamber
State Legislative Building
Raleigh, NC 27601-2808

SENATOR RALPH E. HISE, JR.
47TH DISTRICT

October 8, 2026

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

Dear Secretary Duffy,

As the senator for District 47, I am pleased to support the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program. Funding will improve and expand nationally recognized transportation-focused flood-resilience and -response tools that together allow for NCDOT, federal, state, local agencies, and the traveling public to more proactively prepare for, respond to, and recover from statewide flood threats. The application is titled **N**orth **C**arolina **S**ustainable Solutions for **T**ransforming flooding prediction to build **R**esilient infrastructure and **O**ptimized operations through **N**ext-generation tools and **G**roundbreaking innovation, or **NC STRONG** for short.

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I strongly support this application and respectfully encourage the Federal Highway Administration to fund the framework's progression that protects public safety, maintains critical access, reduces isolation, bolsters economic continuity, and improves resilient investment decisions.

Sincerely,

Ralph E Hise Jr

North Carolina General Assembly
North Carolina Senate
State Legislative Building
Raleigh, NC 27601

10/8/26

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

Subject: Letter of Support – North Carolina Department of Transportation FY2024–FY2026 USDOT PROTECTApplication- **N**orth **C**arolina **S**ustainable Solutions for **T**ransforming flooding prediction to build **R**esilient infrastructure and **O**ptimized operations through **N**ext-generation tools and **G**roundbreaking innovation, or **NC STRONG**.

Dear Secretary Duffy,

I, State Senator Caleb Theodros of Mecklenburg County, am pleased to support the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program. Funding will improve and expand nationally recognized transportation-focused flood-resilience and -response tools that together allow for NCDOT, federal, state, local agencies, and the traveling public to more proactively prepare for, respond to, and recover from statewide flood threats. The application is titled **N**orth **C**arolina **S**ustainable Solutions for **T**ransforming flooding prediction to build **R**esilient infrastructure and **O**ptimized operations through **N**ext-generation tools and **G**roundbreaking innovation, or **NC STRONG** for short.

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I strongly support this application and respectfully encourages the Federal Highway Administration to fund the framework's progression that protects public safety, maintains critical access, reduces isolation, bolsters economic continuity, and improves resilient investment decisions.

Sincerely,
Caleb Theodros
State Senator
NC General Assembly
Caleb.Theodros@ncleg.gov



REPRESENTATIVE ALAN BRANSON
North Carolina General Assembly
59th District

604 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
300 N. SALISBURY STREET
RALEIGH, NC 27603-5925
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TRANSPORTATION—VICE CHAIRMAN
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APPROPRIATIONS, TRANSPORTATION
HIGHER EDUCATION
JUDICIARY 3
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

October 7, 2026

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

Subject: Letter of Support – North Carolina Department of Transportation FY2024–FY2026 USDOT PROTECT Application- **N**orth **C**arolina **S**ustainable Solutions for **T**ransforming flooding prediction to build **R**esilient infrastructure and **O**ptimized operations through **N**ext-generation tools and **G**roundbreaking innovation, or **NC STRONG**.

Dear Secretary Duffy,

I am pleased to support the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program. Funding will improve and expand nationally recognized transportation-focused flood-resilience and -response tools that together allow for NCDOT, federal, state, local agencies, and the traveling public to more proactively prepare for, respond to, and recover from statewide flood threats. The application is titled **N**orth **C**arolina **S**ustainable Solutions for **T**ransforming flooding prediction to build **R**esilient infrastructure and **O**ptimized operations through **N**ext-generation tools and **G**roundbreaking innovation, or **NC STRONG** for short.

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tools will strengthen North Carolina's ability to anticipate disruptions, reduce community isolation, maintain access to critical services and economic centers, prioritize resilient investments, and accelerate post-disaster recovery.

I strongly support this application and respectfully encourage the Federal Highway Administration to fund the framework's progression that protects public safety, maintains critical access, reduces isolation, bolsters economic continuity, and improves resilient investment decisions.

Sincerely,



Representative Alan Branson
North Carolina House of Representatives

North Carolina General Assembly
House of Representatives

REPRESENTATIVE ALLEN BUANSI
56TH DISTRICT

OFFICE 514 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
300 N SALISBURY STREET
RALEIGH, NC 27603

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EMAIL ALLEN.BUANSI@NCLEG.GOV

October 07, 2026

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

Subject: Letter of Support – North Carolina Department of Transportation FY2024–FY2026 USDOT PROTECT Application- **N**orth **C**arolina **S**ustainable Solutions for **T**ransforming flooding prediction to build **R**esilient infrastructure and **O**ptimized operations through **N**ext-generation tools and **G**roundbreaking innovation, or **NC STRONG**.

Dear Secretary Duffy,

Representative Allen Buansi, NC House District 56, is pleased to support the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program. Funding will improve and expand nationally recognized transportation-focused flood-resilience and -response tools that together allow for NCDOT, federal, state, local agencies, and the traveling public to more proactively prepare for, respond to, and recover from statewide flood threats. The application is titled **N**orth **C**arolina **S**ustainable Solutions for **T**ransforming flooding prediction to build **R**esilient infrastructure and **O**ptimized operations through **N**ext-generation tools and **G**roundbreaking innovation, or **NC STRONG** for short.

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Rep. Buansi strongly supports this application and respectfully encourages the Federal Highway Administration to fund the framework's progression that protects public safety, maintains critical access, reduces isolation, bolsters economic continuity, and improves resilient investment decisions.

Sincerely,
Allen Buansi



Representative-North Carolina General Assembly, House District 56

514 Legislative Office Building
300 N Salisbury Street
Raleigh NC 27603
Allen.Buansi@ncleg.gov

North Carolina General Assembly
House of Representatives

REPRESENTATIVE MIKE COLVIN
42ND District

Office: 1023 Legislative Building
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Raleigh NC 27601-1096
(919) 733-5775
Mike.Colvin@ncleg.gov

COMMITTEES

Alcoholic Beverage Control
Finance
Homeland Security, Military and Veterans Affairs

October 7th, 2026

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

Subject: Letter of Support – North Carolina Department of Transportation FY2024–FY2026 USDOT PROTECT Application- North Carolina Sustainable Solutions for Transforming flooding prediction to build Resilient infrastructure and Optimized operations through Next-generation tools and Groundbreaking innovation, or NC STRONG.

Dear Secretary Duffy,

I am Representative Mike Colvin of House District 42 in Cumberland County and I offer my support of the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program. Funding will improve and expand nationally recognized transportation-focused flood-resilience and -response tools that together allow for NCDOT, federal, state, local agencies, and the traveling public to more proactively prepare for, respond to, and recover from statewide flood threats. The application is titled North Carolina Sustainable Solutions for Transforming flooding prediction to build Resilient infrastructure and Optimized operations through Next-generation tools and Groundbreaking innovation, or NC STRONG for short.

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I strongly support this application and respectfully encourages the Federal Highway Administration to fund the framework's progression that protects public safety, maintains critical access, reduces isolation, bolsters economic continuity, and improves resilient investment decisions.

Sincerely,

Michael "Mike" Colvin

State Representative Michael "Mike" Colvin
NC House District 42

North Carolina General Assembly
House Of Representatives

REPRESENTATIVE ALLISON A. DAHLE
11TH DISTRICT

OFFICE: 1217 LEGISLATIVE BUILDING
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COMMITTEES:

ELECTION LAW, VICE CHAIRMAN
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APPROPRIATIONS
APPROPRIATIONS, AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES
ETHICS
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HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON HELENE RECOVERY
HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT
OVERSIGHT
REGULATORY REFORM
RULES, CALENDAR, AND OPERATIONS OF THE HOUSE

October 7, 2026

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

Subject: Letter of Support – North Carolina Department of Transportation FY2024–FY2026 USDOT PROTECT Application- **N**orth **C**arolina **S**ustainable Solutions for **T**ransforming flooding prediction to build **R**esilient infrastructure and **O**ptimized operations through **N**ext-generation tools and **G**roundbreaking innovation, or **NC STRONG**.

Dear Secretary Duffy,

I, Allison Dahle, member of the North Carolina House of Representatives representing District 11, is pleased to support the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program. Funding will improve and expand nationally recognized transportation-focused flood-resilience and -response tools that together allow for NCDOT, federal, state, local agencies, and the traveling public to more proactively prepare for, respond to, and recover from statewide flood threats. The application is titled **N**orth **C**arolina **S**ustainable Solutions for **T**ransforming flooding prediction to build **R**esilient infrastructure and **O**ptimized operations through **N**ext-generation tools and **G**roundbreaking innovation, or **NC STRONG** for short.

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I am happy to support this application and respectfully encourage the Federal Highway Administration to fund the framework's progression that protects public safety, maintains critical access, reduces isolation, bolsters economic continuity, and improves resilient investment decisions.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Allison A. Dahle

District 11

NC House of Representatives

North Carolina General Assembly
House Of Representatives

REPRESENTATIVE KELLY E. HASTINGS
110TH DISTRICT

OFFICE: 2208 LEGISLATIVE BUILDING
16 W. JONES STREET
RALEIGH, NC 27601-1096
PHONE: (919) 715-2002
EMAIL: KELLY.HASTINGS@NCLEG.GOV

COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS, CAPITAL & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, CHAIR
HIGHER EDUCATION, CHAIR
APPROPRIATIONS, VICE CHAIR
ENERGY AND PUBLIC UTILITIES
SELECT COMMITTEE ON HELENE RECOVERY INSURANCE

October 7, 2026

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

Subject: Letter of Support – North Carolina Department of Transportation FY2024–FY2026 USDOT PROTECT Application- **N**orth **C**arolina **S**ustainable Solutions for **T**ransforming flooding prediction to build **R**esilient infrastructure and **O**ptimized operations through **N**ext-generation tools and **G**roundbreaking innovation, or **NC STRONG**.

Dear Secretary Duffy,

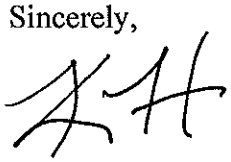
I am pleased to support the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program. Funding will improve and expand nationally recognized transportation-focused flood-resilience and -response tools that together allow for NCDOT, federal, state, local agencies, and the traveling public to more proactively prepare for, respond to, and recover from statewide flood threats. The application is titled **N**orth **C**arolina **S**ustainable Solutions for **T**ransforming flooding prediction to build **R**esilient infrastructure and **O**ptimized operations through **N**ext-generation tools and **G**roundbreaking innovation, or **NC STRONG** for short.

These systems are essential for providing public safety and economic continuity during flood events. Together, they help determine and anticipate flood and storm surge impacts and identify critical assets at risk. By connecting hazard information before, during, and after hazardous events, the framework informs emergency routing, inspection priorities, critical-corridor identification, and coordination among state and local agencies, emergency responders, businesses, and communities. Through this grant, NCDOT's suite of flood warning tools will

strengthen North Carolina's ability to anticipate disruptions, reduce community isolation, maintain access to critical services and economic centers, prioritize resilient investments, and accelerate post-disaster recovery.

I strongly support this application and respectfully encourage the Federal Highway Administration to fund the framework's progression that protects public safety, maintains critical access, reduces isolation, bolsters economic continuity, and improves resilient investment decisions.

Sincerely,



Rep. Kelly E. Hastings

North Carolina General Assembly

North Carolina General Assembly
House Of Representatives

REPRESENTATIVE ZACK HAWKINS
31ST DISTRICT

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16 W. JONES STREET
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COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS
APPROPRIATIONS - EDUCATION
EDUCATION - UNIVERSITIES
ENERGY & PUBLIC UTILITIES
REDISTRICTING
TRANSPORTATION

October 7, 2026

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

Subject: Letter of Support – North Carolina Department of Transportation FY2024–FY2026 USDOT PROTECT Application- North Carolina Sustainable Solutions for Transforming flooding prediction to build Resilient infrastructure and Optimized operations through Next-generation tools and Groundbreaking innovation, or NC STRONG.

Dear Secretary Duffy,

Representative Zack Hawkins of the 31st District of North Carolina is pleased to support the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program. Funding will improve and expand nationally recognized transportation-focused flood-resilience and -response tools that together allow for NCDOT, federal, state, local agencies, and the traveling public to more proactively prepare for, respond to, and recover from statewide flood threats. The application is titled North Carolina Sustainable Solutions for Transforming flooding prediction to build Resilient infrastructure and Optimized operations through Next-generation tools and Groundbreaking innovation, or NC STRONG for short.

These systems are essential for providing public safety and economic continuity during flood events. Together, they help determine and anticipate flood and storm surge impacts and identify critical assets at risk. By connecting hazard information before, during, and after hazardous events, the framework informs emergency routing, inspection priorities, critical-corridor identification, and coordination among state and local agencies, emergency responders, businesses, and communities. Through this grant, NCDOT's suite of flood warning tools will strengthen North Carolina's ability to anticipate disruptions, reduce community isolation, maintain access to critical services and economic centers, prioritize resilient investments, and accelerate post-disaster recovery.

Representative Zack Hawkins of the 31st District of North Carolina strongly supports this application and respectfully encourages the Federal Highway Administration to fund the framework's progression that protects public safety, maintains critical access, reduces isolation, bolsters economic continuity, and improves resilient investment decisions.

Sincerely,

Representative Zack Hawkins

North Carolina General Assembly
House of Representatives

REPRESENTATIVE JEFFREY C. McNEELY
84TH DISTRICT

OFFICE: 606 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
300 N. SALISBURY STREET
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COMMITTEES:

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT, CHAIRMAN
TRANSPORTATION, CHAIRMAN
APPROPRIATIONS
APPROPRIATIONS, AGRICULTURE & NATURAL & ECONOMIC RESOURCES
OVERSIGHT REFORM

SUPPORT LETTER FOR NCDOT'S PROTECT GRANT APPLICATION

October 7, 2026

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

Subject: NCDOT'S FY2024–FY2026 USDOT PROTECT Application – **NC STRONG** (**N**orth **C**arolina **S**ustainable Solutions for **T**ransforming Flooding Prediction to Build **R**esilient Infrastructure and **O**ptimized Operations through **N**ext-Generation Tools and **G**roundbreaking Innovation).

Dear Secretary Duffy:

NC House Transportation Chairman Rep. Jeffrey McNeely is pleased to support the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program. Funding will improve and expand nationally recognized transportation-focused flood-resilience-and-response tools that together allow for NCDOT, federal, state, local agencies, and the traveling public to more proactively prepare for, respond to, and recover from statewide flood threats. The application is titled **N**orth **C**arolina **S**ustainable Solutions for **T**ransforming flooding prediction to build **R**esilient infrastructure and **O**ptimized operations through **N**ext-generation tools and **G**roundbreaking innovation, or **NC STRONG** for short.

North Carolina General Assembly
House of Representatives

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Rep. McNeely strongly supports this application and respectfully encourages the Federal Highway Administration to fund the framework's progression that protects public safety, maintains critical access, reduces isolation, bolsters economic continuity, and improves resiliency investment decisions.

Sincerely,

Representative Jeffrey C. McNeely
North Carolina House of Representatives
District 84 - Iredell County

North Carolina General Assembly
House of Representatives

REPRESENTATIVE RODNEY D. PIERCE
DISTRICT 27

OFFICE: 1421 LEGISLATIVE BUILDING
16 W. JONES STREET
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PHONE: (919) 733-5662
EMAIL: rodney.pierce@ncleg.gov
DISTRICT: HALIFAX, NORTHAMPTION AND
WARREN COUNTIES

COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS
APPROPRIATIONS, GENERAL GOVERNMENT
HOMELAND SECURITY AND MILITARY AND
VETERANS AFFAIRS
INSURANCE

October 6, 2026

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

Subject: Letter of Support – North Carolina Department of Transportation FY2024--FY2026 USDOT PROTECT Application- **N**orth **C**arolina **S**ustainable Solutions for **T**ransforming flooding prediction to build **R**esilient infrastructure and **O**ptimized operations through **N**ext-generation tools and **G**roundbreaking innovation, or **NC STRONG**.

Dear Secretary Duffy:

I am pleased to support the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program. Funding will improve and expand nationally recognized transportation-focused flood-resilience and -response tools that together allow for NCDOT, federal, state, local agencies, and the traveling public to more proactively prepare for, respond to, and recover from statewide flood threats. The application is titled **N**orth **C**arolina **S**ustainable Solutions for **T**ransforming flooding prediction to build **R**esilient infrastructure and **O**ptimized operations through **N**ext-generation tools and **G**roundbreaking innovation, or **NC STRONG** for short.

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I strongly support this application and respectfully encourage the Federal Highway Administration to fund the framework's progression that protects public safety, maintains critical access, reduces isolation, bolsters economic continuity, and improves resilient investment decisions.

Sincerely,

Representative Rodney D. Pierce
House of Representatives – District 27

October 7, 2026

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

Subject: Letter of Support – North Carolina Department of Transportation FY2024–FY2026 USDOT PROTECT Application- **N**orth **C**arolina **S**ustainable Solutions for **T**ransforming flooding prediction to build **R**esilient infrastructure and **O**ptimized operations through **N**ext-generation tools and **G**roundbreaking innovation, or **NC STRONG**.

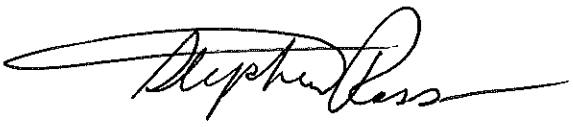
Dear Secretary Duffy,

Representative Ross is pleased to support the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program. Funding will improve and expand nationally recognized transportation-focused flood-resilience and -response tools that together allow for NCDOT, federal, state, local agencies, and the traveling public to more proactively prepare for, respond to, and recover from statewide flood threats. The application is titled **N**orth **C**arolina **S**ustainable Solutions for **T**ransforming flooding prediction to build **R**esilient infrastructure and **O**ptimized operations through **N**ext-generation tools and **G**roundbreaking innovation, or **NC STRONG** for short.

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Representative Ross strongly supports this application and respectfully encourages the Federal Highway Administration to fund the framework's progression that protects public safety, maintains critical access, reduces isolation, bolsters economic continuity, and improves resilient investment decisions.

Sincerely,



Stephen Ross
Representative
North Carolina General Assembly
1229 Legislative Building
16 West Jones Street
Raleigh, NC 27601

Stephen.ross@ncleg.gov

North Carolina General Assembly
House of Representatives
Representative John A. Torbett
District 108

Office: 538 Legislative Office Building
300 N. Salisbury Street
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925
Phone: (919) 733-5868
Fax: (919) 754-3612
Email: John.torbett@ncleg.gov
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Stanley, NC 28164

Phone: (704) 214-1770

Chairman, Appropriations General Government
Chairman, House Select Committee on Government Efficiency
Chairman, State and Local Government
Vice-Chairman, Appropriations
Education K-12
House Select Committee on Helene Recovery
Joint Legislative Commission on Government Operations
Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

October 8, 2026

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

Subject: Letter of Support – North Carolina Department of Transportation FY2024–FY2026 USDOT PROTECT Application- North Carolina Sustainable Solutions for Transforming flooding prediction to build Resilient infrastructure and Optimized operations through Next-generation tools and Groundbreaking innovation, or NC STRONG.

Dear Secretary Duffy,

As the North Carolina House of Representatives member from District 108, I am pleased to support the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program. Funding will improve and expand nationally recognized transportation focused flood resilience and response tools that together allow for NCDOT, federal, state, local agencies, and the traveling public to more proactively prepare for, respond to, and recover from statewide flood threats. The application is titled North Carolina Sustainable Solutions

for Transforming flooding prediction to build Resilient infrastructure and Optimized operations through Next-generation tools and Groundbreaking innovation, or NC STRONG for short.

These systems are essential for providing public safety and economic continuity during flood events. Together, they help determine and anticipate flood and storm surge impacts and identify critical assets at risk. By connecting hazard information before, during, and after hazardous events, the framework informs emergency routing, inspection priorities, critical corridor identification, and coordination among state and local agencies, emergency responders, businesses, and communities. Through this grant, NCDOT's suite of flood warning tools will strengthen North Carolina's ability to anticipate disruptions, reduce community isolation, maintain access to critical services and economic centers, prioritize resilient investments, and accelerate post-disaster recovery.

I strongly support this application and respectfully encourage the Federal Highway Administration to fund the framework's progression that protects public safety, maintains critical access, reduces isolation, bolsters economic continuity, and improves resilient investment decisions.

Respectfully,



Representative John A. Torbett

House District 108

North Carolina General Assembly
House of Representatives

REPRESENTATIVE JULIE VON HAEFEN
36TH DISTRICT, WAKE COUNTY

OFFICE: 1311 LEGISLATIVE BUILDING
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RALEIGH, NC 27601 - 1096
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October 17, 2026

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

Dear Secretary Duffy,

As North Carolina House District 36's Representative, I am pleased to support the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program. Funding will improve and expand nationally recognized transportation-focused flood-resilience and -response tools that together allow for NCDOT, federal, state, local agencies, and the traveling public to more proactively prepare for, respond to, and recover from statewide flood threats. The application is titled **N**orth **C**arolina **S**ustainable Solutions for **T**ransforming flooding prediction to build **R**esilient infrastructure and **O**ptimized operations through **N**ext-generation tools and **G**roundbreaking innovation, or **NC STRONG** for short.

These systems are essential for providing public safety and economic continuity during flood events. Together, they help determine and anticipate flood and storm surge impacts and identify critical assets at risk. By connecting hazard information before, during, and after hazardous events, the framework informs emergency routing, inspection priorities, critical-corridor identification, and coordination among state and local agencies, emergency responders, businesses, and communities. Through this grant, NCDOT's suite of flood warning tools will strengthen North Carolina's ability to anticipate disruptions, reduce community isolation, maintain access to critical services and economic centers, prioritize resilient investments, and accelerate post-disaster recovery.

I strongly support this application and respectfully encourage the Federal Highway Administration to fund the framework's progression to protect public safety, maintain critical access, reduce isolation, bolster economic continuity, and improve resilient investment decisions.

Sincerely,



Representative Julie von Haefen
NC House District 36, Wake County
(Apex, Holly Springs, Cary)

North Carolina General Assembly
House of Representatives

REPRESENTATIVE HARRY WARREN
ROWAN COUNTY - 77TH DISTRICT

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CELL: (704) 650-4227

COMMITTEES:
GOVERNMENT, VICE-CHAIR
COMMERCE AND JOB DEVELOPMENT
COMMERCE AND JOB DEVELOPMENT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL
EDUCATION
FINANCE
INSURANCE
PUBLIC UTILITIES

October 7, 2026

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

Subject: Letter of Support: North Carolina Department of Transportation FY2024–FY2026 USDOT PROTECT Application - **N**orth **C**arolina **S**ustainable Solutions for **T**ransforming flooding prediction to build **R**esilient infrastructure and **O**ptimized operations through **N**ext-generation tools and **G**roundbreaking innovation, or **NC STRONG**.

Dear Secretary Duffy,

I am pleased to support the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program. Funding will improve and expand nationally recognized transportation-focused flood-resilience and-response tools that together allow for NCDOT, federal, state, local agencies, and the traveling public to more proactively prepare for, respond to, and recover from statewide flood threats. The application is titled **N**orth **C**arolina **S**ustainable Solutions for **T**ransforming flooding prediction to build **R**esilient infrastructure and **O**ptimized operations through **N**ext-generation tools and **G**roundbreaking innovation, or **NC STRONG** for short.

These systems are essential for providing public safety and economic continuity during flood events. Together, they help determine and anticipate flood and storm surge impacts and identify critical assets at risk. By connecting hazard information before, during, and after hazardous events, the framework informs emergency routing, inspection priorities, critical-corridor identification, and coordination among state and local agencies, emergency responders, businesses, and communities. Through this grant, NCDOT's suite of flood warning tools will strengthen North Carolina's ability to anticipate disruptions, reduce community isolation, maintain access to critical services and economic centers, prioritize resilient investments, and accelerate post-disaster recovery.

I strongly support this application and respectfully encourage the Federal Highway Administration to fund the framework's progression that protects public safety, maintains critical access, reduces isolation, bolsters economic continuity, and improves resilient investment decisions.

Sincerely,



Harry Warren
Representative – House District 76
NC General Assembly
300 N Salisbury Street
Raleigh, NC 27603
harry.warren@ncleg.gov

North Carolina General Assembly
House Of Representatives

REPRESENTATIVE SHELLY WILLINGHAM
23RD DISTRICT

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COMMITTEES:
ETHICS - CO-CHAIR
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL - VICE-CHAIR
APPROPRIATIONS
APPROPRIATIONS/TRANSPORTATION
ELECTION LAW AND CAMPAIGN FINANCE
ENERGY AND PUBLIC UTILITIES
FEDERAL RELATIONS AND AMERICAN INDIAN AFFAIRS
HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON HURRICANE HELENE
OVERSIGHT AND REFORM
RULES, CALENDAR & OPERATIONS OF THE HOUSE

October 7, 2026

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

Subject: Letter of Support – North Carolina Department of Transportation FY2024–FY2026 USDOT PROTECT Application

Dear Secretary Duffy,

This is a letter of support for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program.

I believe this funding will improve and expand nationally recognized transportation-focused flood-resilience and -response tools that will allow NCDOT, federal, state, local agencies, and the traveling public to more proactively prepare for, respond to, and recover from statewide flood threats. The application is titled North Carolina Sustainable Solutions for Transforming flooding prediction to build Resilient infrastructure and Optimized operations through Next-generation tools and Groundbreaking innovation, (NC STRONG).

These systems are essential for providing public safety and economic continuity during flood events. Collectively, they help determine and anticipate flood and storm surge impacts and identify critical assets at risk. By connecting hazard information before, during, and after hazardous events, the framework informs emergency routing, inspection priorities, critical-corridor identification, and coordination among state and local agencies, emergency responders, businesses, and communities.

Through this grant, NCDOT's suite of flood warning tools will strengthen North Carolina's ability to anticipate disruptions, reduce community isolation, maintain access to critical services and economic centers, prioritize resilient investments, and accelerate post-disaster recovery.

I strongly support this application and respectfully encourage the Federal Highway Administration to fund the framework's progression that protects public safety, maintains critical access, reduces isolation, bolsters economic continuity, and improves resilient investment decisions.

Respectfully,

Shelly Willingham

Representative Shelly Willingham
North Carolina House District 23
Bertie, Edgecombe & Martin Counties

SW/js

North Carolina General Assembly
House Of Representatives

REPRESENTATIVE MATTHEW WINSLOW
NC HOUSE CONFERENCE CHAIR
7TH DISTRICT

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COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS—CAPITAL AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, CHAIR
ENERGY AND PUBLIC UTILITIES, CHAIR
APPROPRIATIONS, VICE CHAIR
COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT
JUDICIARY 1
REGULATORY REFORM
TRANSPORTATION

October 7, 2026

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

Subject: Letter of Support – North Carolina Department of Transportation FY2024–FY2026 USDOT PROTECT Application- **N**orth **C**arolina **S**ustainable Solutions for **T**ransforming flooding prediction to build **R**esilient infrastructure and **O**ptimized operations through **N**ext-generation tools and **G**roundbreaking innovation, or **NC STRONG**

Dear Secretary Duffy:

As the North Carolina House Representative for District 7, I am pleased to support the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program. Funding will improve and expand nationally recognized transportation-focused flood-resilience and -response tools that together allow for NCDOT, federal, state, local agencies, and the traveling public to more proactively prepare for, respond to, and recover from statewide flood threats.

These systems are essential for providing public safety and economic continuity during flood events. Together, they help determine and anticipate flood and storm surge impacts and identify critical assets at risk. By connecting hazard information before, during, and after hazardous events, the framework informs emergency routing, inspection priorities, critical-corridor identification, and coordination among state and local agencies, emergency responders, businesses, and communities. Through this grant, NCDOT's suite of flood warning tools will strengthen North Carolina's ability to anticipate disruptions, reduce community isolation, maintain access to critical services and economic centers, prioritize resilient investments, and accelerate post-disaster recovery.

I fully support this application and respectfully encourage the Federal Highway Administration to approve this funding that will support my district and the entire state.

Sincerely,

Matthew Winslow



Letters of Support

State Government

North Carolina
Coastal Federation
Working Together for a Healthy Coast

September 18, 2026

Kurt Golembesky, PE, CFM
Highway Floodplain Program-Engineer III
Hydraulics Unit
North Carolina Department of Transportation

Re: Letter of Support for NCDOT NC STRONG PROTECT Grant Application

Dear Mr. Golembesky:

On behalf of the North Carolina Coastal Federation, I am pleased to express our strong support for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's NC STRONG application to the Federal Highway Administration's PROTECT Discretionary Grant Program.

North Carolina's coastal communities are increasingly affected by flooding from hurricanes, storm surge, extreme rainfall, rising sea levels, and the interaction of coastal and riverine flooding. These events can inundate roads, damage bridges and culverts, isolate communities, interfere with emergency response, and disrupt businesses and other essential services. Reliable transportation infrastructure is therefore fundamental to the long-term resilience of our coast.

The NC STRONG initiative would significantly improve the State's ability to anticipate and respond to these risks by integrating and advancing existing flood monitoring, forecasting, mapping, and transportation decision-support systems. We particularly support efforts to improve combined storm surge and riverine flood modeling, expand real-time monitoring, identify vulnerable transportation assets, and provide timely and useful information to state and local governments, emergency managers, coastal communities, and the public.

This work also complements the Coastal Federation's efforts to protect and restore coastal watersheds and make communities more resilient to flooding and other climate-related hazards. Better information about where, when, and why flooding occurs can help North Carolina move beyond responding to individual disasters and toward identifying long-term vulnerabilities and making strategic investments that reduce future risks. It can also help ensure that transportation improvements are coordinated with broader watershed restoration, flood mitigation, and community resilience efforts.

Maintaining safe and reliable access is especially important for rural and geographically isolated coastal communities, where a relatively small number of roads, bridges, and causeways may provide the only connections to homes, businesses, emergency services, and evacuation routes.

Northeast Regional Office
637 Harbor Road, P.O. Box 276
Wanchese, NC 27981
252-473-1607

Headquarters
4415 Highway 24, P.O. Box 1360
Newport, NC 28570
252-393-8185
www.nccoast.org

Southeast Regional Office
309 W. Salisbury Street
Wrightsville Beach, NC 28480
910-509-2838

Improving the State's ability to predict flooding and communicate transportation impacts can protect lives, reduce economic losses, and help communities recover more quickly following severe storms.

The North Carolina Coastal Federation strongly supports NCDOT's NC STRONG initiative and its goal of creating a more coordinated, predictive, and resilient statewide transportation system. We encourage the Federal Highway Administration to provide PROTECT funding for this important effort.

Sincerely,

Braxton Davis
Executive Director

JOSH STEIN
Governor
D. REID WILSON
Secretary
MARC RECKTENWALD
Director

NORTH CAROLINA
Environmental Quality

September 16, 2026

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

Re: Letter of Support – North Carolina Department of Transportation
FY2024–FY2026 USDOT PROTECT Application

Dear Secretary Duffy,

North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ), Flood Resiliency Blueprint is pleased to support the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program. Funding will improve and expand nationally recognized transportation-focused flood-resilience and -response tools that together allow for NCDOT, federal, state, local agencies, and the traveling public to more proactively prepare for, respond to, and recover from statewide flood threats. The application is titled **N**orth **C**arolina **S**ustainable solutions for **T**ransforming flooding prediction to build **R**esilient infrastructure and **O**ptimized operations through **N**ext-generation tools and **G**roundbreaking innovation, or **NC STRONG** for short.

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North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality | Division of Mitigation Services
217 West Jones Street | 1652 Mail Service Center | Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1652
919.707.8976

North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ), Flood Resiliency Blueprint strongly supports this application and respectfully encourages the Federal Highway Administration to fund the framework's progression that protects public safety, maintains critical access, reduces isolation, bolsters economic continuity, and improves resilient investment decisions.

Sincerely,



Stuart Brown
Program Manager, NC Flood Resiliency Blueprint
NC Department of Environmental Quality
217 West Jones Street, Raleigh, NC 27603
Stuart.Brown@deq.nc.gov

JOSH STEIN
Governor
D. REID WILSON
Secretary
KATHIE DELLO, PHD
Assistant Secretary for Resilience

NORTH CAROLINA
Environmental Quality

September 25, 2026

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

Re: Letter of Support – North Carolina Department of Transportation FY2024–FY2026 USDOT PROTECT Application

Dear Secretary Duffy,

The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality's State Resilience Office is pleased to support the North Carolina Department of Transportation's application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program.

The proposed NC STRONG initiative builds directly upon statewide priorities identified in the 2020 North Carolina Climate Risk Assessment and Resilience Plan, which calls for coordinated, data-driven systems to reduce infrastructure risks, strengthen emergency response, and address vulnerabilities across communities. These priorities are further reinforced by the Regions Innovating for Strong Economies and Environments (RISE) regional resilience portfolios, which consistently emphasize the need for improved flood-warning tools, expanded stream and tide gauge networks, real-time monitoring, and better decision support for understanding when key roadways, bridges, and culverts will be impacted during severe weather.

Across the nine RISE regional portfolios, communities repeatedly identify issues that NC STRONG directly addresses, including limited warning time before flooding, inadequate monitoring of critical transportation infrastructure, and the need to expand real-time flood information systems such as the Flood Inundation Mapping and Alert Network (FIMAN). Several resilience portfolios highlight high-priority projects focused on expanding stream gauge networks to improve flood forecasting and increase warning time for communities, such as the Mid-Carolina regional project adding six new gauges to support real-time water-level monitoring and improved integration with statewide systems. Regional assessments also emphasize strengthening predictive modeling, improving access to hazard data, and providing better tools for identifying when roads, bridges, and other critical assets may be overtopped or isolated during storms.

The NC STRONG initiative advances these statewide and regional resilience needs by modernizing and integrating NCDOT's core flood-risk tools. Through enhancements to FIMAN, the Transportation Surge Analysis Predictive Program (T-SAPP), BridgeWatch, and DriveNC, the initiative strengthens storm-surge and riverine flood forecasting, expands real-time monitoring of roads and structures, improves asset-level alerts for bridges and culverts, and provides more accessible, actionable hazard information to the public and emergency managers. Together, these improvements create a more comprehensive and proactive statewide system for anticipating transportation disruptions and supporting timely, informed decision-making before, during, and after flood events.

The State Resilience Office strongly supports this application because it strengthens North Carolina's ability to anticipate disruptions, maintain critical access, protect lives and property, and reduce community isolation during hazardous events. The integration and enhancement of these transportation-focused flood-warning tools directly align with both the statewide plan and the locally identified needs across the nine RISE regional portfolios.

We respectfully encourage the Federal Highway Administration to fund the NC STRONG initiative, which builds a more reliable, coordinated, and sustainable transportation resilience framework for our state. Thank you for your consideration and for supporting efforts to safeguard North Carolina's communities and infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Gianandre R Tavares

Gian Tavares
Director, State Resilience Office
North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality
gian.tavares@deq.nc.gov

NC Department of Public Safety
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Josh Stein, Governor

Casandra S. Hoekstra, Interim Secretary
William C. Ray, Director

October 6, 2026

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

Re: Letter of Support – North Carolina Department of Transportation
FY2024–FY2026 USDOT PROTECT Application

Dear Secretary Duffy,

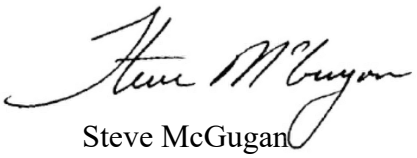
North Carolina Emergency Management/Hazard Mitigation is pleased to support the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) grant program. The funds from this grant will allow the NCDOT to continue improving and further expand North Carolina's nationally recognized transportation-focused flood-resilience and -response tools that together allow for not only NCDOT, but federal, state, and local agencies, and the traveling public to more proactively prepare for, respond to, and recover from statewide flood threats. The application is titled **N**orth **C**arolina **S**ustainable solutions for **T**ransforming flooding prediction to build **R**esilient infrastructure and **O**ptimized operations through **N**ext-generation tools and **G**roundbreaking innovation, or **NC STRONG** for short.

NCDOT's systems are essential for providing public safety and economic continuity during flood events. They help determine and anticipate flood and storm surge impacts and identify critical assets at risk. By connecting hazard information before, during, and after hazardous events, the framework informs emergency routing, inspection priorities, critical-corridor identification, and coordination among state and local agencies, emergency responders, businesses, and communities. Through this grant, NCDOT's suite of flood warning tools will strengthen North Carolina's ability to anticipate disruptions, reduce community isolation, maintain access to critical services and economic centers, prioritize resilient investments, and accelerate post-disaster recovery.

1636 Gold Star Drive Raleigh, NC 27607 | 4236 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-4236
Phone: 919-825-2500 Fax: 919-825-2685 | www.ncdps.gov www.readync.gov
An Equal Opportunity Employer

North Carolina Emergency Management/Hazard Mitigation, as a long time partner with NCDOT, strongly supports their application for this grant and respectfully encourages the Federal Highway Administration to fund the framework's progression that protects public safety, maintains critical access, reduces isolation, bolsters economic continuity, and improves resilient investment decisions.

Respectfully,



Steve McGugan
State Hazard Mitigation Officer
Assistant Director / Mitigation Section Chief
North Carolina Emergency Management

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Sciences
State Climate Office

Campus Box 7236
1005 Capability Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27695-7236
climate.ncsu.edu
P: 919.515.3056

September 18, 2026

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

Re: Letter of Support – North Carolina Department of Transportation
FY2024–FY2026 USDOT PROTECT Application

Dear Secretary Duffy,

The State Climate Office of North Carolina is pleased to support the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program. Funding will improve and expand nationally recognized transportation-focused flood-resilience and -response tools that together allow for NCDOT, federal, state, local agencies, and the traveling public to more proactively prepare for, respond to, and recover from statewide flood threats. The application is titled **N**orth **C**arolina **S**ustainable solutions for **T**ransforming flooding prediction to build **R**esilient infrastructure and **O**ptimized operations through **N**ext-generation tools and **G**roundbreaking innovation, or **NC STRONG** for short.

These systems are essential for providing public safety and economic continuity during flood events. Together, they help determine and anticipate flood and storm surge impacts and identify critical assets at risk. By connecting hazard information before, during, and after hazardous events, the framework informs emergency routing, inspection priorities, critical-corridor identification, and coordination among state and local agencies, emergency responders, businesses, and communities. Through this grant, NCDOT's suite of flood warning tools will strengthen North Carolina's ability to anticipate disruptions, reduce community isolation, maintain access to critical services and economic centers, prioritize resilient investments, and accelerate post-disaster recovery. In particular, the State Climate Office of North Carolina works closely NCDOT on issues related to rainfall extremes, including rainfall tools that support both operations and resilience.

The State Climate Office of North Carolina strongly supports this application and respectfully encourages the Federal Highway Administration to fund the framework's progression that protects public safety, maintains critical access, reduces isolation, bolsters economic continuity, and improves resilient investment decisions.

Sincerely,



Jared H. Bowden, PhD.
Director / State Climatologist
State Climate Office of North Carolina
1005 Capability Drive
Raleigh, NC 27695-7236
jhbowden@ncsu.edu

NC STATE UNIVERSITY Climate and Sustainability Academy

Campus Box 8609
221 Jensen Drive
Raleigh, NC 27695-8609
go.ncsu.edu/casa

September 18, 2026

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

Re: Letter of Support – North Carolina Department of Transportation
FY2024–FY2026 USDOT PROTECT Application

Dear Secretary Duffy,

The Climate and Sustainability Academy at North Carolina State University (CaSA) is pleased to support the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program. Funding will improve and expand nationally recognized transportation-focused flood-resilience and -response tools that together allow for NCDOT, federal, state, local agencies, and the traveling public to more proactively prepare for, respond to, and recover from statewide flood threats. The application is titled **N**orth **C**arolina **S**ustainable solutions for **T**ransforming flooding prediction to build **R**esilient infrastructure and **O**ptimized operations through **N**ext-generation tools and **G**roundbreaking innovation, or **NC STRONG** for short.

These systems are essential for providing public safety and economic continuity during flood events. Together, they help determine and anticipate flood and storm surge impacts and identify critical assets at risk. By connecting hazard information before, during, and after hazardous events, the framework informs emergency routing, inspection priorities, critical-corridor identification, and coordination among state and local agencies, emergency responders, businesses, and communities. Through this grant, NCDOT's suite of flood warning tools will strengthen North Carolina's ability to anticipate disruptions, reduce community isolation, maintain access to critical services and economic centers, prioritize resilient investments, and accelerate post-disaster recovery.

CaSA envisions a resilient and sustainable future powered by collaboration, creativity and action. CaSA strongly supports this application and respectfully encourages the Federal Highway Administration to fund the framework's progression that protects public safety, maintains critical access, reduces isolation, bolsters economic continuity, and improves resilient investment decisions.

Sincerely,



Erin Seekamp, Ph.D.

Executive Director, Climate and Sustainability Academy
Goodnight Distinguished Professor in Coastal Resilience and Sustainability
NC State University
919.513.7407
elseekam@ncsu.edu

UNC
CENTER FOR NATURAL
HAZARDS RESILIENCE

THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

100 EUROPA DRIVE
SUITE 540
CAMPUS BOX 7581
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27517

September 17, 2026

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

Re: Letter of Support – North Carolina Department of Transportation
FY2024–FY2026 USDOT PROTECT Application

Dear Secretary Duffy,

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Center for Natural Hazards Resilience (CNHR) is pleased to support the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program. Funding will improve and expand nationally recognized transportation-focused flood-resilience and -response tools that together allow for NCDOT, federal, state, and local agencies, and the traveling public, to more proactively prepare for, respond to, and recover from statewide flood threats. The application is titled **N**orth **C**arolina **S**ustainable solutions for **T**ransforming flooding prediction to build **R**esilient infrastructure and **O**ptimized operations through **N**ext-generation tools and **G**roundbreaking innovation, or **NC STRONG** for short.

These systems are essential for providing public safety and economic continuity during flood events. Together, they help determine and anticipate flood and storm impacts and identify critical assets at risk. By connecting hazard information before, during, and after hazardous events, the framework informs emergency routing, inspection priorities, critical-corridor identification, and coordination among governments, emergency responders, businesses, and communities. Through this grant, NCDOT's suite of flood warning tools will strengthen North Carolina's ability to anticipate disruptions, reduce community isolation, maintain access to critical services and economic centers, prioritize resilient investments, and accelerate post-disaster recovery.

The UNC CNHR strongly supports this application and respectfully encourages the Federal Highway Administration to fund the framework's progression that protects public safety, maintains critical access, reduces isolation, bolsters economic continuity, and improves resilient investment decisions.

Sincerely,

Rick Luettich

Rick Luettich
Director, Center for Natural Hazards Resilience
rick_luettich@unc.edu



Letters of Support
Local Government

City of Asheville
Office of the Mayor
P.O. Box 7148
Asheville, NC 28802
Phone: (828) 259-5600
www.ashevillenc.gov

September 25, 2026

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

Re: Letter of Support – North Carolina Department of Transportation
FY2024–FY2026 USDOT PROTECT Application

Dear Secretary Duffy,

The City of Asheville is pleased to support the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program. Funding will improve and expand nationally recognized transportation-focused flood-resilience and -response tools that together allow for NCDOT, federal, state, local agencies, and the traveling public to more proactively prepare for, respond to, and recover from statewide flood threats. The application is titled North Carolina Sustainable solutions for Transforming flooding prediction to build Resilient infrastructure and Optimized operations through Next-generation tools and Groundbreaking innovation, or NC STRONG for short.

These systems are essential for providing public safety and economic continuity during flood events. Together, they help determine and anticipate flood and storm surge impacts and identify critical assets at risk. By connecting hazard information before, during, and after hazardous events, the framework informs emergency routing, inspection priorities, critical-corridor identification, and coordination among state and local agencies, emergency responders, businesses, and communities. Through this grant, NCDOT's suite of flood warning tools will strengthen North Carolina's ability to anticipate disruptions, reduce community isolation, maintain access to critical services and economic centers, prioritize resilient investments, and accelerate post-disaster recovery.

The City of Asheville strongly supports this application and respectfully encourages the Federal Highway Administration to fund the framework's progression that protects public safety, maintains critical access, reduces isolation, bolsters economic continuity, and improves resilient investment decisions.

Sincerely,

Mayor Esther E. Manheimer

City of Jacksonville

City Manager's Office
PO Box 128 • Jacksonville NC 28541-0128 • 910 938-5220

September 15, 2026

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

Re: Letter of Support – North Carolina Department of Transportation FY2024–FY2026 USDOT PROTECT Application

Dear Secretary Duffy:

The City of Jacksonville is pleased to support the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program. Funding will improve and expand nationally recognized transportation-focused flood-resilience and -response tools that together allow for NCDOT, federal, state, local agencies, and the traveling public to more proactively prepare for, respond to, and recover from statewide flood threats. The application is titled **N**orth **C**arolina **S**ustainable solutions for **T**ransforming flooding prediction to build **R**esilient infrastructure and **O**ptimized operations through **N**ext-generation tools and **G**roundbreaking innovation, or **NC STRONG** for short.

These systems are essential for providing public safety and economic continuity during flood events. Together, they help determine and anticipate flood and storm surge impacts and identify critical assets at risk. By connecting hazard information before, during, and after hazardous events, the framework informs emergency routing, inspection priorities, critical-corridor identification, and coordination among state and local agencies, emergency responders, businesses, and communities. Through this grant, NCDOT's suite of flood warning tools will strengthen North Carolina's ability to anticipate disruptions, reduce community isolation, maintain access to critical services and economic centers, prioritize resilient investments, and accelerate post-disaster recovery.

The City of Jacksonville strongly supports this application and respectfully encourages the Federal Highway Administration to fund the framework's progression that protects public safety, maintains critical access, reduces isolation, bolsters economic continuity, and improves resilient investment decisions.

Sincerely,

Anthony Prinz
Assistant City Manager

TOWN *of* BELVILLE
497 Olde Waterford Way, Suite 200
Belville, NC 28451
Phone: (910) 371-2456

Small Town Charm
Established 1977

September 15, 2026

To Whomever It May Concern,

On behalf of the Town of Belville, I am writing to express our support for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) application Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program.

NCDOT's proposed project, NC STRONG (North Carolina Supporting Transportation Resilience Outcomes Through Next-Generation GIS), directly addresses a critical national priority: safeguarding surface transportation systems against severe weather events and flooding.

As Mayor of the Town of Belville in North Carolina, we experience firsthand the escalating frequency and severity of extreme weather events. Our statewide transportation network is paramount to our economic stability, public safety, and emergency response capabilities, and we wholly support the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization and the NCDOT in their efforts including economic continuity, critical infrastructure, and risk reduction.

By improving data and tool integration, expanding predictive combined storm surge and river modeling farther inland, increasing asset-level monitoring, enhancing existing flood alerts, extending operational decisions, we can alleviate some of the guesswork, and provide more timely, comprehensive and actionable information region-wide to provide assistance during hazards.

During Florence, the extreme weather here created islands, and we were all isolated. The **NC STRONG** initiative is a vital next step for our state and will equip decision-makers with unmatched data capability, so we will not have to experience helplessness again.

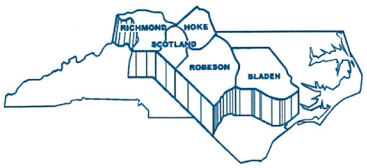
By funding the state-of-the-art resiliency tools, we can more easily adapt, and schedule emergency response where it is needed to save lives. By cooperating with NC STRONG, NCDOT and its regional, state and federal partners can reduce disruptions, and provide all our communities with critical services before, during and after hazardous events.

We strongly urge the **U.S. Department of Transportation** and the **Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)** to fully fund NCDOT's **NC STRONG** application.

This investment will yield invaluable, compounding benefits for North Carolina. The forecasting and flood warning tools to help monitor flood risk before the event, and ability to share information during the event, will immensely help save lives. By supporting this initiative, we believe that we can provide reliable, and sustainable transportation resilience during these dangerous times.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Charles Bost, Mayor
Town of Belville



LRCOG

Lumber River Council of Governments
30 CJ Walker Road, COMtech Park
Pembroke, North Carolina 28372-7340
Tel. (910) 618-5533 • Fax (910) 521-7556
E-mail: lrcog@lumberrivercog.org
Website: www.lumberrivercog.org

Dedicated to Regional Excellence

September 16, 2026

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

Re: Letter of Support – North Carolina Department of Transportation FY2024–FY2026 USDOT PROTECT Application

Dear Secretary Duff:

Lumber River Council of Governments is pleased to support the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program. Funding will improve and expand nationally recognized transportation-focused flood-resilience and -response tools that together allow for NCDOT, federal, state, local agencies, and the traveling public to more proactively prepare for, respond to, and recover from statewide flood threats. The application is titled **N**orth **C**arolina **S**ustainable solutions for **T**ransforming flooding prediction to build **R**esilient infrastructure and **O**ptimized operations through **N**ext-generation tools and **G**roundbreaking innovation, or **NC STRONG** for short.

These systems are essential for providing public safety and economic continuity during flood events. Together, they help determine and anticipate flood and storm surge impacts and identify critical assets at risk. By connecting hazard information before, during, and after hazardous events, the framework informs emergency routing, inspection priorities, critical-corridor identification, and coordination among state and local agencies, emergency responders, businesses, and communities. Through this grant, NCDOT's suite of flood warning tools will strengthen North Carolina's ability to anticipate disruptions, reduce community isolation, maintain access to critical services and economic centers, prioritize resilient investments, and accelerate post-disaster recovery.

Lumber River Council of Governments strongly supports this application and respectfully encourages the Federal Highway Administration to fund the framework's progression that protects public safety, maintains critical access, reduces isolation, bolsters economic continuity, and improves resilient investment decisions.

Sincerely,

David Richardson, JD/MBA
Executive Director

Member Governments

BLADEN COUNTY
Bladenboro • Clarkton • Dublin
East Arcadia • Elizabethtown
Tar Heel • White Lake

HOKE COUNTY
Raeford

RICHMOND COUNTY
Dobbins Heights • Ellerbe • Hamlet
Hoffman • Norman
Rockingham

SCOTLAND COUNTY
Gibson • Laurinburg • Wagram

ROBESON COUNTY
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Marietta • Maxton • McDonald
Orrum • Parkton • Pembroke
Proctorville • Red Springs • Rennert
Rowland • St. Pauls

a program of Land of Sky

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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

October 1, 2026

Dear Secretary Duffy:

On behalf of the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (FBRMPO), I am pleased to express our strong support for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's application for funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program to advance statewide transportation flood resilience.

Flooding is one of the most significant hazards affecting the reliability and continuity of transportation systems in Western North Carolina. Recent flooding events, including the impacts of Hurricane Helene in September 2024, demonstrated how quickly flooding and associated hazards can disrupt roads, bridges, transit services, and other critical transportation infrastructure. These disruptions can limit access to homes, businesses, healthcare, emergency services, and other essential destinations while placing additional demands on already constrained transportation networks.

FBRMPO supports NCDOT's efforts to advance and integrate a suite of flood warning, monitoring, and transportation resilience tools—including FIMAN, T-SAPP, BridgeWatch, DriveNC, and related systems. Integrating these resources can strengthen the ability of transportation agencies and regional partners to identify and communicate flood-related risks, monitor conditions, anticipate transportation disruptions, and make informed decisions before, during, and following severe weather events.

As a Metropolitan Planning Organization, FBRMPO has a direct interest in improving the resilience of the transportation system and incorporating better information about hazards and vulnerabilities into transportation planning and investment decisions. Tools that provide timely information about flooding, bridge conditions, roadway impacts, and

French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization

339 New Leicester Highway, Suite 140 • Asheville, NC 28806 • 828-251-6622

mpo@landofsky.org • frenchbroadrivermpo.org

potential disruptions can support more informed planning, emergency response, incident management, and coordination among transportation and emergency management agencies.

The proposed initiative also provides an important opportunity to improve coordination and interoperability among existing tools and data sources. A more integrated statewide approach can help ensure that information developed through flood monitoring and transportation systems is useful not only to NCDOT, but also to MPOs, local governments, emergency responders, and other partners responsible for maintaining mobility and community access during disruptive events.

FBRMPO recognizes that transportation resilience depends not only on investments in physical infrastructure, but also on the data, technology, coordination, and decision-support capabilities necessary to understand risks and respond effectively. Continued investment in statewide flood warning and transportation resilience tools will help strengthen the reliability of North Carolina's transportation network, improve emergency preparedness, reduce the impacts of transportation disruptions, and support economic continuity for communities throughout the state.

For these reasons, the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization strongly supports NCDOT's application for PROTECT funding to advance statewide transportation flood resilience and the continued development and integration of FIMAN, T-SAPP, BridgeWatch, DriveNC, and related tools. We appreciate NCDOT's leadership in pursuing this initiative and encourage the U.S. Department of Transportation to support this important investment in the resilience and reliability of North Carolina's transportation system.



Tristan Winkler
Director
French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization

WMPO

525 N. 4th Street, Wilmington, NC 28401
P.O. Box 1810, Wilmington, NC 28402
(910) 341-3258
www.wmpo.org

September 23, 2026

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

Re: Letter of Support – North Carolina Department of Transportation
FY2024–FY2026 USDOT PROTECT Application

Dear Secretary Duffy,

The Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization is pleased to support the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program. Funding will improve and expand nationally recognized transportation-focused flood-resilience and -response tools that together allow for NCDOT, federal, state, local agencies, and the traveling public to more proactively prepare for, respond to, and recover from statewide flood threats. The application is titled **N**orth **C**arolina **S**ustainable solutions for **T**ransforming flooding prediction to build **R**esilient infrastructure and **O**ptimized operations through **N**ext-generation tools and **G**roundbreaking innovation, or **NC STRONG** for short.

These systems are essential for providing public safety and economic continuity during flood events. Together, they help determine and anticipate flood and storm surge impacts and identify critical assets at risk. By connecting hazard information before, during, and after hazardous events, the framework informs emergency routing, inspection priorities, critical-corridor identification, and coordination among state and local agencies, emergency responders, businesses, and communities. Through this grant, NCDOT's suite of flood warning tools will strengthen North Carolina's ability to anticipate disruptions, reduce community isolation, maintain access to critical services and economic centers, prioritize resilient investments, and accelerate post-disaster recovery.

The Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization strongly supports this application and respectfully encourages the Federal Highway Administration to fund the framework's progression that protects public safety, maintains critical access, reduces isolation, bolsters economic continuity, and improves resilient investment decisions.

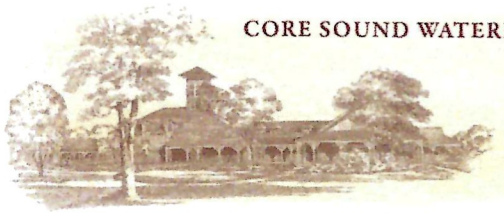
Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any additional information or assistance.

Sincerely,

Mike Kozlosky
Executive Director
Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
525 North 4th Street
Wilmington, North Carolina 28401
(910) 342-2781



Letters of Support
Additional Stakeholders



CORE SOUND WATERFOWL MUSEUM & HERITAGE CENTER
A Place for the People

September 28, 2026

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

Re: Letter of Support – North Carolina Department of Transportation – **FY2024—FY2026 USDOT PROTECT Application**

Dear Secretary Duffy,

The Core Sound Waterfowl Museum & Heritage Center and its community outreach network, **DERN – Down East Resilience Network**, is writing to express the immediate everyday needs of our low-lying communities that would greatly benefit from the work outlined in the above reference project grant. Our communities (13 unincorporated villages located along Core Sound in Carteret County, NC) are already living with the impacts of sea level rise including crumbling culverts, flooded roads that hinder transportation to and from work, treacherous bus routes for our children, and the constant uncertainty of access to the most remote areas of our communities, often where older residents still maintain homesteads.

DERN's partners are working to address these issues through research, network collaboration and local engagement and education. Their work locally is providing online resources (small scale) to road closures and rising waters. These social media tools are already becoming part of local residents' planning for daily transportation to and from our inland small towns for work, groceries and doctor appointments.

From this Network a local initiative for storm preparation and response based on road washouts is underway with the support of local emergency agencies, but the challenges exceed our shared capacity to prepare for what is ahead. Public awareness of the current resilience issues is growing due to our local efforts, but we do not have the tools or the expertise to address any of these challenges.

This PROTECT proposal, Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation Program, would enable communities like ours to respond as a region in a sustainable way. Public safety, economic infrastructure, access to work and schools, are all current issues that will require more than local community members can provide. Planning, preparedness and implementation will require community members, local government and statewide agencies to address the growing risks coastal NC is seeing almost daily.

We sincerely hope you will support this NCDOT proposal to address our needs today and especially for the realistic livability challenges going forward.

Karen Willis Amspacher, Museum Director and DERN Coordinator

"At the End of Road"
1785 Island Road | Harkers Island, NC 28531
www.CoreSound.com

LUMBEE TRIBE OF NORTH CAROLINA
John L. Lowery | Lumbee Tribal Chairman

September 25, 2026

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

Re: Letter of Support – North Carolina Department of Transportation

FY2024–FY2026 USDOT PROTECT Application

Dear Secretary Duffy,

The Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina is pleased tosupport the North Carolina Department of Transportation's(NCDOT) application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program.Funding will improve and expand nationally recognized transportation-focused flood-resilience and -response tools that together allow for NCDOT, federal, state, local agencies, and the traveling public to more proactively prepare for, respond to, and recover from statewide flood threats. The application is titled North Carolina Sustainable solutions for Transforming flooding prediction to build Resilient infrastructure and Optimized operations through Next-generation tools and Groundbreaking innovation, or NC STRONG for short.

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The Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina strongly supports this application and respectfully encourages the Federal Highway Administration to fund the framework's progression that protects public safety, maintains critical access, reduces isolation, bolsters economic continuity, and improves resilient investment decisions.

Sincerely,

John Lowery
Tribal Chairman

UNIFIED RAD

September 30, 2026

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

Re: Letter of Support – North Carolina Department of Transportation FY2024–FY2026 USDOT PROTECT Application

Dear Secretary Duffy,

Pattiy Torno (a co-founder of the River Arts District in Asheville, NC) and the Unified RAD (River Arts District) Steering Committee are pleased to support the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program. Funding will improve and expand nationally recognized transportation-focused flood-resilience and -response tools that together allow for NCDOT, federal, state, local agencies, and the traveling public to more proactively prepare for, respond to, and recover from statewide flood threats. The application is titled **North Carolina Sustainable solutions for Transforming flooding prediction to build Resilient infrastructure and Optimized operations through Next-generation tools and Groundbreaking innovation**, or **NC STRONG** for short.

These systems are essential for providing public safety and economic continuity during flood events. We have firsthand experience of how helpful the NCDOT's systems were for us during Hurricane Helene. We all worked closely with Kurt Golembesky between 2022-2024 to fine tune these systems as they related to the River Arts District in Asheville, NC. We feel strongly that without the NCDOT's help, there would have been greater loss of life and property during Hurricane Helene.

This suite of systems helps determine and anticipate flood and storm surge impacts and identify critical assets at risk. By connecting hazard information before, during, and after hazardous events, the framework informs emergency routing, inspection priorities, critical-corridor identification, and coordination among state and local agencies, emergency responders, businesses, and communities. Through this grant, NCDOT's suite of flood warning tools will strengthen North Carolina's ability to anticipate disruptions, reduce community isolation, maintain access to critical services and economic centers, prioritize resilient investments, and accelerate post-disaster recovery.

Pattiy Torno and Unified RAD Steering Committee strongly support this application and respectfully encourage the Federal Highway Administration to fund the framework's progression that protects public safety, maintains critical access, reduces isolation, bolsters economic continuity, and improves resilient investment decisions.

Sincerely,
Pattiy Torno & the Unified RAD Steering Committee :

Jeffrey Burroughs, Board President, RADA Membership

Allison Redmond, Board President, RADA Foundation
Kim Self Hundertmark, Executive Director, RADA Foundation

Brian Lewis, Board President, RADBIZ
Amy Michaelson Kelly, Marketing Committee Chair, RADBIZ

Chris Zajac, Real Estate Developer, MHO
Lisa Raleigh, Executive Director, RiverLink
Joe Balcken, Long-term Planning Lead, Unified RAD