



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 **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 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
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