



Small Town Charm
Established 1977

TOWN of BELVILLE

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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