



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