



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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas E. Briggs", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

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