

Amy H. Cannon
County Manager

Tracy Jackson
Assistant County Manager



Rawls Howard
Director

David Moon
Deputy Director

Planning & Inspections Department

4/25/22

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The program of investments outlined in the Fayetteville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's (FAMPO) *improving Bragg Roads and Access for Greater Growth Project* ("iBRAGG") application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's RAISE Program offers an opportunity for the State of North Carolina to Build Back Better.

Improving Bragg Roads and Access for Greater Growth Project ("the Project" hereafter) proposes to repair and rehabilitate approximately 47 miles of publicly accessible roadways within Fort Bragg's Army Garrison, but outside of the cantonment and other secure areas. These Fort Bragg roads were originally designed and constructed to serve the Fort Bragg troop training activities. However, over time the road system evolved to a Fort Bragg and public roadway which supports military activities and as civilian commuter routes. As a result of this road system evolution, the Fort Bragg project roads began to carry a higher volume of traffic than envisioned when they were initially constructed. Consequently, the road system is assessed by the North Carolina Department of Transportation as unsafe and inefficient travel due to deteriorating pavement conditions, pavement edge drop-offs, substandard guardrails, inadequate signage, vegetation encroaching on clear zones, and erosion as depicted in the Project proposal and the State of Good Repair Section.

The proposed Project will bring the roads into a state of good repair to enhance rural-urban connectivity, address erosion and stormwater management concerns, improve resilience, increase road safety, and improve emergency services response. Aside from commuter travel, the Project will enhance military training routes that support the movement of military equipment and training exercises in support of mission readiness and Global Response Force requirements. Fort Bragg is the core of our nation's current Global Response Force, as well as an economic anchor for the Fayetteville metropolitan area.

Fort Bragg has an annual economic impact of \$8.3 billion and supports a population of over 325,636 military members, Department of Defense civilians and contract employees, retirees, and family members. The Project is an important step forward to connecting rural and urban central North Carolina by rebuilding and rehabilitating what has become a vital portion of the

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region's road, bicycle, and pedestrian network to benefit the region's commuters. The collaboration between the State of North Carolina, North Carolina Department of Transportation, FAMPO members and Fort Bragg will foster a unified approach in funding, performing repairs, and maintenance activities. The Project will bring the road system into a state of good repair and add it to the state maintenance system by the Board of Transportation.

Cumberland County Planning and Inspections, as a member, fully supports FAMPO's application for the Department of Transportation RAISE Grant.

Thank you in advance for your favorable consideration of Fort Bragg and its connected communities for the U.S. Department of Transportation RAISE Grant. If I or my staff may be of any further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rawls Howard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Rawls Howard, AICP, CFM, CZO
Director of Planning and Inspections
Cumberland County, NC