



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER  
GOVERNOR

02/21/2023

J. ERIC BOYETTE  
SECRETARY

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC, 20590

Subject: Certification of Financial Contribution 2023 RAISE Grant Application:  
***GRAHAM: Greater Rural Access and Highways to Accelerate Mobility***

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) wishes to express its full support for the ***GRAHAM: Greater Rural Access and Highways to Accelerate Mobility*** project under the United States Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant Program. The ***GRAHAM*** Project is the result of extensive collaboration between NCDOT, FHWA, ARC, Southwestern Rural Planning Organization, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Graham and Cherokee County Commissioners and County Managers, and the Graham County Economic Development Director to improve a 12-mile portion of Corridor K of the Appalachian Development Highway System (ADHS) in Graham County, North Carolina, one of the last sections of the ADHS to be completed. The Project will more safely and equitably serve all transportation modes in a remote portion of rural western North Carolina by adding climbing and passing lanes along NC 143 and NC 28 between Robbinsville and the Stecoah Valley; constructing new sidewalks and a 0.6 mile multiuse path to improve multimodal access to services, businesses and educational opportunities; and improving Appalachian Trail access and safety, including a new land bridge to allow pedestrians and bicyclists, as well as wildlife, to safely cross NC 143. The project also includes 2 Dynamic Message Signs, 6 Dynamic Trailblazers, and a new CCTV at the intersection of US 129 and NC 143 in Robbinsville, with signal coordination at five intersections. These ITS components alert travelers to emergencies and road closures along US 19/74, which occur frequently due to flooding and geotechnical failures. US 129, NC 143, and NC 28 are vital detours, but with only a single lane in each direction and inadequate communications to travelers, the increased traffic leads to congestion and travel delays.

If awarded, the ***GRAHAM*** project will create new multimodal connections for transportation disadvantaged populations and improve the safety, mobility, and quality of life for residents of this remote and Historically Disadvantaged Community. The project is

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a critical step forward to enhancing the vitality and economic competitiveness of rural western North Carolina.

To that end, the NCDOT will fund the **GRAHAM** project in the amount of **\$279,622,000** (2022\$) in ADHS Program funds towards a successful RAISE grant.

Thank you for your consideration of the **GRAHAM** project for the 2023 RAISE Discretionary Grant Program.

If NCDOT can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (919)707-4320 or via e-mail at [sjking@ncdot.gov](mailto:sjking@ncdot.gov).

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:



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Stephanie King

Chief Financial Officer