



February 24, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm pleased to recommend the North Carolina Department of Transportation for a Federal RAISE Grant to fund improvements to a 12-mile portion of the Appalachian Development Highway System's (ADHS) Corridor K in Graham County, North Carolina.

The project will more safely and equitably serve all transportation modes by adding climbing and passing lanes along NC 143 and NC 28 between Robbinsville and the Stecoah Valley; constructing new sidewalks and a multiuse path to improve multimodal access to services, businesses and educational opportunities; and improving Appalachian Trail access and safety, including an innovative new land bridge to allow pedestrians and 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.

This project is the outcome of extensive coordination between government agencies, local officials, and environmental stakeholders – including MountainTrue – to ensure a project that meets the local and broader needs for reliability and connectivity, while incorporating a variety of additional features just described.

MountainTrue is an incorporated 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to creating and sustaining a healthy environment by championing resilient forests, clean waters, and healthy communities, promoting clean energy, and increasing civic engagement in policy-making in the Southern Blue Ridge Mountains.

Sincerely,

Callie D. Moore
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