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December 19, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: FY 23-26 Bridge Investment Program (BIP), Large Bridge Project Grants | 693JJ323NF00019
Applicant: North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT)
Application #: GRANT14026369
UEI #: XSN8A4TT1DY5

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am pleased to support the grant application submitted by NCDOT for funding through the FY 23-26 BIP, Large Bridge Project Grants in the amount of \$242,150,000.

NCDOT indicates that it requests funding to replace the aging Cape Fear Memorial Bridge (CFMB) in Wilmington, NC. The CFMB Replacement Project will replace an existing four-lane steel vertical-lift bridge that is functionally obsolete. The bridge carries US 17/US 76/US 421 across the Cape Fear River between New Hanover and Brunswick Counties, one of the fastest-growing regions in the state. The 2021 annual average daily traffic on the bridge was approximately 69,000 vehicles and is projected to increase to 94,900 vehicles by 2050. Replacing the CFMB will reduce costly bridge maintenance, improve access to the Port of Wilmington, offer sustainable modes of transportation, and grow the greater Cape Fear Region's diverse economy. The Large Bridge Project Grant funds will be used for utility relocation, right-of-way acquisition, and construction of the new bridge structure and connections.

Thank you for your consideration of NCDOT's application for BIP, Large Bridge Project grant funding. Please feel free to contact my staff if you have questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,



Thom Tillis

U.S. Senator

TRT/ac

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