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United States Senate

ARMED SERVICES BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT JUDICIARY VETERANS' AFFAIRS

COMMITTEES

WASHINGTON, DC 20510 November 8, 2019

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao Secretary of Transportation U.S. Department of Transportation West Building, 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE Washington, DC 20590-9898

Re: Town of Mooresville, North Carolina CRISI Grant Application

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am pleased to support the application submitted by the Town of Mooresville, North Carolina for funding through the United States Department of Transportation Federal Rail Administration Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program in the amount of \$4,487,500.

The Town of Mooresville indicates that grant funding will be used for its Mazeppa Road Flyover Rail Crossing project, which will eliminate an at-grade rail crossing and intersection at Mazeppa Road/Connector Road and North Carolina State Highway NC-115. The project includes the construction of a new two-way road to maintain access between Mazeppa Road/Connector Road and NC-115, as well as a new two-way access road from Mazeppa Road to McKenzie Road. These enhancements will improve safety, congestion, and accessibility to major employment hubs in the area.

It is my understanding that the Town has taken multiple steps in the planning process working with the North Carolina Department of Transportation's Rail Division and Norfolk Southern, as well as having completed the National Environmental Policy Act analysis and obtaining the necessary state and local permits and approvals for the project. The Town is requesting \$4,487,500 from the Federal Railroad Administration and has committed \$4,487,500 in matching funds for the project – 50 percent of the total project cost of \$8,975,000.

Improved transportation and related infrastructure are critical to the quality of life, job growth, sustainability, and enhanced safety in our state and region, and I thank you for your consideration of the Town of Mooresville's request for CRISI grant program funding. Please feel free to contact my Raleigh office at 919-856-4630 if you have questions regarding this request.

Sincerely. Thom Tillis

U.S. Senator

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