

April 20, 2022

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

Re: FY 2022 RAISE grant program
Applicant: North Carolina Department of Transportation (NC DOT)
Application Name: Fixing Low Water Bridges for Emergency, Transportation, Technology,
Equity, and Resilience (FLOW BETTER) Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am pleased to support the grant application submitted by the North Carolina Department of Transportation for funding through the FY 2022 RAISE program in the amount of \$10,000,000.

NC DOT indicates that it requests funding to reconstruct 28 bridges in Avery, Ashe, Alleghany, Caldwell, Watauga, and Wilkes Counties in North Carolina—including 26 low water bridges, 1 scour critical bridge, and 1 bridge with pedestrian fatalities. The reconstruction of these bridges will provide many benefits, including economic competitiveness, safety, equity, resilience, and mobility in rural western North Carolina by improving important access points in North Carolina's High Country for industry, emergency response, school bus, and transit service. It is my understanding that this project supports the goals of the RAISE program to invest in multi-jurisdictional projects that achieve national objectives to create a transportation system that is the safest, most efficient, and modern in the world.

Improved transportation and related infrastructure are critical to economic development and growth, and I thank you for your consideration of NC DOT's application for FY 2022 RAISE grant funding. Please feel free to contact Kyle Sanders at kyle_sanders@tillis.senate.gov and Andrew Nam at andrew_nam@tillis.senate.gov if you have questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,



Thom Tillis
U.S. Senator

TRT/SB