

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT APPLICATION TO U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION'S 2018 BETTER UTILIZING INVESTMENTS TO  
LEVERAGE DEVELOPMENT (BUILD) TRANSPORTATION  
DISCRETIONARY GRANTS PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Transportation's ("USDOT") Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development Transportation Discretionary Grants Program ("BUILD") provides funding for capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure and;

**WHEREAS**, the Lineberger Connector Project was identified as a regional project in the *Franklin Boulevard Corridor Access and Alternative Development Mobility Strategy*, completed in August 2016 by the City of Gastonia and the City of Lowell and;

**WHEREAS**, the Cities of Gastonia and Lowell, in partnership with Gaston County, seek to apply for grant funding to construct the Lineberger Connector Project, which will extend Lineberger Road north of I-85 to connect to NC Highway 7, and provide direct access to more than 450 acres of property that is ripe for local and regional development and;

**WHEREAS**, this is the first phase of implementing a broader plan to provide connectivity from Franklin Boulevard north to I-85 through new collector/distributor roads between Exit 21 and Exit 22 and;

**WHEREAS**, traffic in the area surrounding the project is experiencing significant congestion and delay, with many intersections performing at a Level of Service F during peak periods and;

**WHEREAS**, this proposed project presents a unique opportunity to provide accessibility to an area that could produce significant economic development and job creation along Interstate 85 and;

**WHEREAS**, the area in which the Lineberger Connector Project is located has been recommended by the NC Department of Commerce to be certified as an Opportunity Zone, which could bring a much-needed infusion of investment dollars for economic development into the most distressed rural and urban areas of our state and;

**WHEREAS**, the *Franklin Boulevard Corridor Access and Alternative Development Mobility Strategy* showed that the Lineberger Connector Project would improve congestion and delay in the study area and accommodate new development and;

**WHEREAS**, the project will exemplify a strong public-private partnership involving multiple partners in both the public and private sectors, including collaboration among neighboring jurisdictions to achieve both local and regional benefits, now;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Gastonia City Council hereby declares support for the funding and construction of the Lineberger Connector Project.

Resolution adopted this the, 19th day of June, 2018 upon a motion of Mayor Pro Tem D. Kirlin and seconded by Councilman R. Kellogg by a vote of 5 affirmative votes to 0 negative votes.

Walker E. Reid III

Walker E Reid, III, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sherry H. Dunaway

Sherry H. Dunaway, City Clerk

Certificate

The undersigned duly qualified City Clerk of the City of Gastonia certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the City of Gastonia held on June 19, 2018.

Sherry H. Dunaway

Sherry H. Dunaway  
City Clerk

(seal)

6-19-2018  
Date





**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT APPLICATION TO U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION'S 2018 BETTER UTILIZING INVESTMENTS TO  
LEVERAGE DEVELOPMENT (BUILD) TRANSPORTATION  
DISCRETIONARY GRANTS PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Transportation's ("USDOT") Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development Transportation Discretionary Grants Program ("BUILD") provides funding for capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure and;

**WHEREAS**, the Lineberger Connector Project was identified as a regional project in the *Franklin Boulevard Corridor Access and Alternative Development Mobility Strategy*, completed in August 2016 by the City of Lowell and the City of Gastonia and;

**WHEREAS**, the Cities of Lowell and Gastonia, in partnership with Gaston County, seek to apply for grant funding to construct the Lineberger Connector Project, which will extend Lineberger Road north of I-85 to connect to NC Highway 7, and provide direct access to more than 450 acres of property that is ripe for local and regional development and;

**WHEREAS**, this is the first phase of implementing a broader plan to provide connectivity from Franklin Boulevard north to I-85 through new collector/distributor roads between Exit 21 and Exit 22 and;

**WHEREAS**, traffic in the area surrounding the project is experiencing significant congestion and delay, with many intersections performing at a Level of Service F during peak periods and;

**WHEREAS**, this proposed project presents a unique opportunity to provide accessibility to an area that could produce significant economic development and job creation along Interstate 85 and;

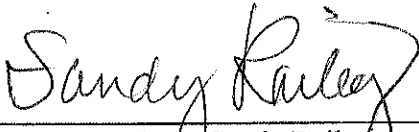
**WHEREAS**, the area in which the Lineberger Connector Project is located has been recommended by the NC Department of Commerce to be certified as an Opportunity Zone, which could bring a much-needed infusion of investment dollars for economic development into the most distressed rural and urban areas of our state and;

**WHEREAS**, the *Franklin Boulevard Corridor Access and Alternative Development Mobility Strategy* showed that the Lineberger Connector Project would improve congestion and delay in the study area and accommodate new development and;

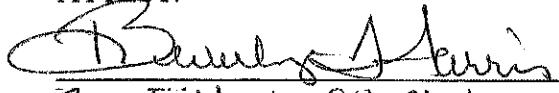
**WHEREAS**, the project will exemplify a strong public-private partnership involving multiple partners in both the public and private sectors, including collaboration among neighboring jurisdictions to achieve both local and regional benefits, now;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Lowell City Council hereby declares support for the funding and construction of the Lineberger Connector Project.

Adopted this 9<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2018.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Sandy Railey

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Beverly Harris, City Clerk



**RESOLUTION TITLE: RESOLUTION TO ENDORSE APPLICATION TO U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S 2018 BETTER UTILIZING INVESTMENTS TO LEVERAGE DEVELOPMENT (BUILD) TRANSPORTATION DISCRETIONARY GRANTS PROGRAM FOR LINEBERGER CONNECTOR PROJECT**

- WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation's ("USDOT") Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development Transportation Discretionary Grants Program ("BUILD") provides funding for capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure; and,
- WHEREAS, the Lineberger Connector Project was identified as a regional project in the *Franklin Boulevard Corridor Access and Alternative Development Mobility Strategy*, completed in August 2016 by the City of Gastonia and the City of Lowell; and,
- WHEREAS, the Cities of Gastonia and Lowell seek to apply for grant funding to construct the Lineberger Connector Project, which will extend Lineberger Road north of I-85 to connect to NC Highway 7, and provide direct access to more than 450 acres of property that is ripe for local and regional development; and,
- WHEREAS, this is the first phase of implementing a broader plan to provide connectivity from Franklin Boulevard north to I-85 through new collector/distributor roads between Exit 21 and Exit 22; and,
- WHEREAS, traffic in the area surrounding the project is experiencing significant congestion and delay, with many intersections performing at a Level of Service F during peak periods; and,
- WHEREAS, this proposed project presents a unique opportunity to provide accessibility to an area that could produce significant economic development and job creation along Interstate 85; and,
- WHEREAS, the area in which the Lineberger Connector Project is located has been recommended by the NC Department of Commerce to be certified as an Opportunity Zone, which could bring a much-needed infusion of investment dollars for economic development into the most distressed rural and urban areas of our state; and,
- WHEREAS, the *Franklin Boulevard Corridor Access and Alternative Development Mobility Strategy* showed that the Lineberger Connector Project would improve congestion and delay in the study area and accommodate new development; and,

DO NOT TYPE BELOW THIS LINE

I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows:

NO.	DATE	M1	M2	Brown	Fraleigh	Grant	Hovis	Kelgher	Phelan	Worley	Vote
2018-179	07/10/2018	RW	BH	A	AB	A	A	A	A	A	U

**DISTRIBUTION:**  
Laserfiche Users

A=AYE, N=NAY, AB=ABSENT, ABS=ABSTAIN, U=UNANIMOUS

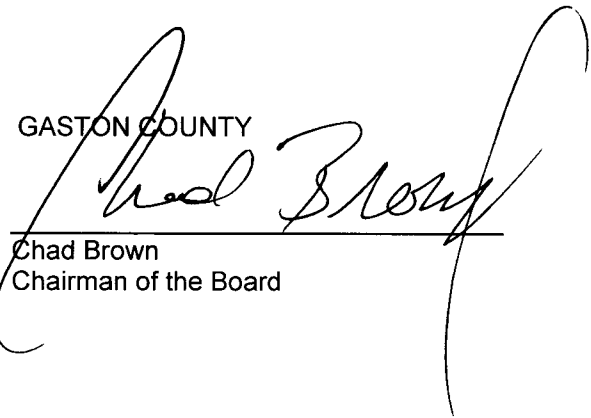
GASTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
RESOLUTION TO ENDORSE APPLICATION TO USDOT "BUILD" GRANT FOR LINEBERGER  
CONNECTOR PROJECT  
Page 2

WHEREAS, the project will exemplify a strong public-private partnership involving multiple partners in both the public and private sectors, including collaboration among neighboring jurisdictions to achieve both local and regional benefits.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners hereby declares its endorsement of the Lineberger Connector Project, and urges USDOT to fund the grant application.

Adopted this 10th day of July, 2018.

GASTON COUNTY



---

Chad Brown  
Chairman of the Board

ATTEST



---

Donita S. Buif  
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners





July 13, 2018

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

**RE: LINEBERGER CONNECTOR 2018 BUILD GRANT**

The Honorable Elaine Chao:

As Chairman of the Gaston County Economic Development Commission I am submitting this letter of support for the Lineberger Connector 2018 BUILD grant application. On July 10, 2018 our Board voted unanimously to support this application.

The Cities of Gastonia and Lowell are partnering with Gaston County to compete for BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant funds to complete the funding package necessary to implement the Lineberger Connector project between the two communities. The County's current population estimate is approximately 220,000 and growing significantly in the eastern portion along the I-85 corridor. The explosive growth of Charlotte is feeding business and population growth in these municipalities. Providing transportation and new road connections is critical between US Highway 74 and Interstate 85 in these cities.

The Lineberger Connector blends the needs of all mode types into a plan for residents and visitors, all while respecting the history and amenities that give these communities their charm and unique personality. The Lineberger Connector will complete the network, braiding the communities together through this overly congested network.



The Lineberger Connector project includes new location roadway and a new bridge over I-85 connecting both sides of I-85 between Franklin Boulevard and NC 7 to the north. The construction of the Lineberger Connector completes the network between NC 7 and Franklin Boulevard north and south, and is the first phase of implementing a broader plan to provide connectivity east and west through new collector/distributor roads between Exit 21 (Cox Road) and Exit 22 (S. Main Street).

This project will improve traffic flow for residents of both communities as well as regional commuters. The new grade separation will unlock more than 450 acres of property that is ripe for local and regional development. These improvements are providing greater economic mobility for a broad range of citizens in both communities as well as leveraging infrastructure improvements to stimulate economic growth. The Lineberger Connector project has the potential to be a transformational project for the region with an overall economic impact of over \$100 million. In addition, the area in which the Lineberger Connector Project is located has been recommended by the NC Department of Commerce to be certified as an Opportunity Zone, which could bring a much-needed infusion of investment dollars for economic development into the most distressed rural and urban areas of our state.

This project will exemplify a strong public-private partnership involving multiple partners in both the public and private sectors, including collaboration among neighboring jurisdictions to achieve both local and regional benefits.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Robert Browne'.

Robert Browne  
Chairman

P.O. Box 2339, Gastonia, NC 28053-2339

Phone: 704-825-4046 Fax: 704-825-4066

**Success.**

[www.gaston.org](http://www.gaston.org)

**Local Strengths. Global**

**GASTON-CLEVELAND-LINCOLN  
Metropolitan Planning Organization**

Transportation Planning

Mailing Address:  
PO Box 1748  
Gastonia, North Carolina 28053

Physical Address:  
150 South York Street  
Gastonia, North Carolina 28052

Tel: (704) 866.6837  
Fax: (704) 869.1960

[www.gclmpo.org](http://www.gclmpo.org)

June 28, 2018

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

**RE: LINEBERGER CONNECTOR 2018 BUILD GRANT**

The Honorable Elaine Chao:

On behalf of the Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization (GCLMPO), please accept this letter of support for the Lineberger Connector 2018 BUILD grant application.

The **Cities of Gastonia and Lowell**, in partnership with **Gaston County** are seeking BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant funds to complete the funding package necessary to implement the Lineberger Connector project between the two communities. With a county population of over 200,000, improving the mobility of almost 78,000 people - 74,000 in Gastonia and 4,000 in Lowell - in communities located along the I-85 corridor is challenging. Understanding that these communities are located just west of the largest city in North Carolina and are feeling the pressures of a neighboring community, brings to light a challenge that requires the development of the Lineberger Connector project. The Lineberger Connector blends the needs of all mode types into a plan for residents and visitors, all while respecting the history and amenities that give these communities their charm and unique personality. A **bridge**. A **bike path**. A **pedestrian link**. A **transit route**. A **freight mobility** option. A **network connector**. A **gateway**. An **opportunity**. The Lineberger Connector will complete the network, braiding the communities together through this overly congested network.

The Lineberger Connector project includes new location roadway and a new bridge over I-85 connecting both sides of I-85 between Franklin Boulevard and NC 7 to the north. The construction of the Lineberger Connector completes the network between NC 7 and Franklin Boulevard north and south, and is the first phase of implementing a broader plan to provide connectivity east and west through new collector/distributor roads between Exit 21 (Cox Road) and Exit 22 (S. Main Street).

This project will **improve traffic flow** for residents of both communities as well as regional commuters. The new grade separation will unlock more than 450 acres of property that is ripe for local and regional development. These improvements are providing **greater economic mobility** for a broad range of citizens in both communities as well as leveraging infrastructure improvements to **stimulate economic growth**. The Lineberger Connector project has the potential to be a **transformational project** for the region with an overall economic impact of

over \$100 million. In addition, the area in which the Lineberger Connector Project is located has been recommended by the NC Department of Commerce to be certified as an **Opportunity Zone**, which could bring a much-needed infusion of investment dollars for economic development into the most distressed rural and urban areas of our state.

This project will exemplify a strong **public-private partnership** involving multiple partners in both the public and private sectors, including collaboration among neighboring jurisdictions to achieve both **local** and **regional benefits**.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "S. Scott Neisler".

Scott Neisler, Chair  
GCLMPO Board



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER  
GOVERNOR

JAMES H. TROGDON, III  
SECRETARY

June 25, 2018

Secretary Elaine L. Chao  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Office of the Secretary  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

SUBJECT: Lineberger Connector in Gastonia/Lowell, BUILD 2018 Application

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the North Carolina Department of Transportation, I am writing to express our support for the cities of Gastonia and Lowell's application for the United States Department of Transportation's 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program to fund improvements to the Lineberger Connector in Gastonia and Lowell.

The cities of Gastonia and Lowell in partnership with Gaston County are seeking BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant funds to complete the Lineberger Connector between the two communities of more than 78,000 people. With a county population of over 200,000, improving the mobility in communities located along the I-85 corridor is challenging. Understanding that these communities are located just west of the largest city in North Carolina brings to light a challenge that requires the development of the Lineberger Connector project. The Lineberger Connector blends the needs of all mode types into a plan for residents and visitors, all while respecting the history and amenities that give these communities their charm and unique personality. The Lineberger Connector will complete the network, braiding the communities together through this overly congested network.

The Lineberger Connector includes new location roadway and a new bridge over I-85 connecting both sides of I-85 between Franklin Boulevard and NC 7 to the north. The construction of the Lineberger Connector completes the network between NC 7 and Franklin Boulevard north and south, and is the first phase of implementing a broader plan to provide connectivity east and west through new collector/distributor roads between Exit 21 (Cox Road) and Exit 22 (S. Main Street) over I-85.

*Mailing Address:*  
NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
SECRETARY'S OFFICE  
1501 MAIL SERVICE CENTER STREET  
RALEIGH, NC 27699-1501

*Telephone:* (919) 707-2800  
*Fax:* (919) 733-9150  
*Customer Service:* 1-877-368-4968

*Location:*  
1 SOUTH WILMINGTON STREET  
RALEIGH, NC 27601

*Website:* [www.ncdot.gov](http://www.ncdot.gov)

Secretary Elaine L. Chao

June 25, 2018

Page 2

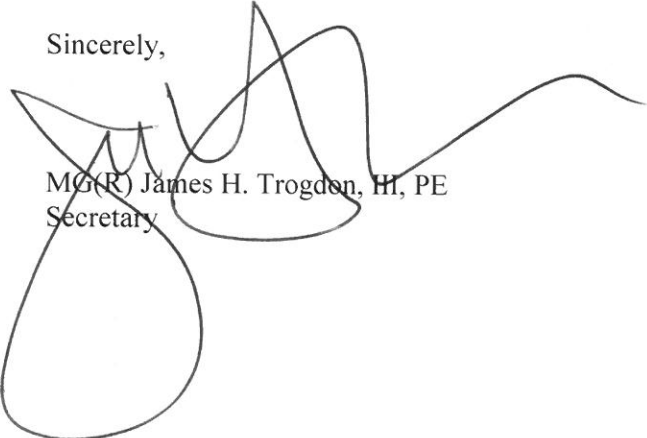
This project will improve traffic flow for residents of both communities as well as regional commuters. The new grade separation will unlock more than 450 acres of property that is primed for local and regional development. These improvements are providing greater economic mobility for a broad range of citizens in both communities as well as leveraging infrastructure improvements to stimulate economic growth. The Lineberger Connector project has the potential to be a transformational project for the region with an overall economic impact of over \$100 million. In addition, the area in which the Lineberger Connector Project is located has been recommended by the North Carolina Department of Commerce to be certified as an Opportunity Zone, which could bring a much-needed infusion of investment dollars for economic development into the most distressed rural and urban areas of our state.

This project will exemplify a strong public-private partnership involving multiple partners in both the public and private sectors, including collaboration among neighboring jurisdictions to achieve both local and regional benefits.

Construction of the City of Gastonia and Lowell's Lineberger Connector will ultimately serve every facet of the Department's mission to "connect people and places in North Carolina - safely and efficiently, with accountability and environmental sensitivity."

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,



MGR James H. Trogdon, HI, PE  
Secretary



North Carolina General Assembly  
Senate

SENATOR KATHY HARRINGTON  
43RD DISTRICT

OFFICE: 300-C LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
300 N. SALISBURY STREET  
RALEIGH, NC 27603-5925  
PHONE: (919) 733-5734  
EMAIL: KATHY.HARRINGTON@NCLEG.NET

COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS/BASE BUDGET, CHAIR  
FINANCE  
HEALTHCARE  
RULES AND OPERATIONS OF THE SENATE  
TRANSPORTATION

July 11, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
U. S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Lineberger Connector 2018 BUILD Grant

Dear Secretary Chao:

Please accept this letter of support for the Lineberger Connector project 2018 BUILD grant application. The application is being submitted by the Cities of Gastonia and Lowell, in partnership with Gaston County, North Carolina.

The BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant funds are necessary to complete the Lineberger Connector project between Gastonia and Lowell. The completion of this project will improve the mobility of about 78,000 people by blending the needs of all transportation mode types. The project will spur economic development by unlocking 450 acres of property that is ripe for development, while reducing congestion by approximately 125,000 vehicle miles. This transformational project will have an overall economic impact of in excess of \$100 million and will create about 3,500 new jobs for the region, part of which , has been certified by the NC Department of Commerce as an Opportunity Zone. The Lineberger Connector project is an ideal candidate for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development program and will bring much needed economic development and infrastructural relief to the most distressed rural and urban areas of North Carolina.

I ask that you give this grant application your every consideration. If I may provide any additional information, please contact me at any time.

All the best,

Kathy Harrington







**NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Representative John A. Torbett  
108<sup>th</sup> District

Office: 538 Legislative Office Building  
300 N. Salisbury Street  
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

Phone: (919) 733-5868  
(919) 754-3612 FAX

EMAIL [john.torbett@ncleg.net](mailto:john.torbett@ncleg.net)

District: 210 Blue Ridge Drive  
Stanley, NC 28164

Phone: (704) 263-9282

**COMMITTEES**

Chairman, Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Transportation  
Chairman, House Select Committee on School  
Safety  
Chairman, House Select Committee on  
Strategic Transportation Planning and  
Long Term Funding Solutions  
Chairman, Transportation  
Chairman, Joint Legislative Transportation  
Oversight  
Vice-Chairman, Appropriations  
Vice-Chairman, House Select Committee on  
Redistricting  
Vice-Chairman, Rules, Calendar, and  
Operations of the House  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Information Technology  
Government Operations Oversight  
Judiciary IV  
House Select Committee on Judicial  
Redistricting

June 14, 2018

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

**RE: LINEBERGER CONNECTOR 2018 BUILD GRANT**

The Honorable Elaine Chao:

Please accept this letter of support for the Lineberger Connector 2018 BUILD grant application.

The **Cities of Gastonia and Lowell**, in partnership with **Gaston County** are seeking BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant funds to complete the funding package necessary to implement the Lineberger Connector project between the two communities. With a county population of over 200,000, improving the mobility of almost 78,000 people - 74,000 in Gastonia and 4,000 in Lowell - in communities located along the I-85 corridor is challenging. Understanding that these communities are located just west of the

largest city in North Carolina and are feeling the pressures of a neighboring community, brings to light a challenge that requires the development of the Lineberger Connector project. The Lineberger Connector blends the needs of all mode types into a plan for residents and visitors, all while respecting the history and amenities that give these communities their charm and unique personality. A **bridge**. A **bike path**. A **pedestrian link**. A **transit route**. A **freight mobility** option. A **network connector**. A **gateway**. An **opportunity**. The Lineberger Connector will complete the network, braiding the communities together through this overly congested network.

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This project will **improve traffic flow** for residents of both communities as well as regional commuters. The new grade separation will unlock more than 450 acres of property that is ripe for local and regional development. These improvements are providing **greater economic mobility** for a broad range of citizens in both communities as well as leveraging infrastructure improvements to **stimulate economic growth**. The Lineberger Connector project has the potential to be a **transformational project** for the region with an overall economic impact of over \$100 million. In addition, the area in which the Lineberger Connector Project is located has been recommended by the NC Department of Commerce to be certified as an **Opportunity Zone**, which could bring a much-needed infusion of investment dollars for economic development into the most distressed rural and urban areas of our state.

This project will exemplify a strong **public-private partnership** involving multiple partners in both the public and private sectors, including collaboration among neighboring jurisdictions to achieve both **local** and **regional benefits**.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John A. Torbett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Representative John Torbett  
N.C. House of Representatives  
300 N Salisbury Street, Room 538  
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925  
919-733-5868  
John.Torbett@ncleg.net



North Carolina General Assembly  
House Of Representatives

REPRESENTATIVE DANA BUMGARDNER  
109TH DISTRICT

OFFICE: 2119 LEGISLATIVE BUILDING  
16 W. JONES STREET  
RALEIGH, NC 27601-1096  
PHONE: 919.733.5809  
FAX: 919.754.3162  
EMAIL: dana.bumgardner@ncleg.net

July 3, 2018

COMMITTEES:

INSURANCE, CHAIR  
APPROPRIATIONS  
APPROPRIATIONS ON TRANSPORTATION  
BANKING  
JUDICIARY II  
PUBLIC UTILITIES  
TRANSPORTATION

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
U. S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Lineberger Connector 2018 BUILD Grant

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing in support of the Lineberger Connector 2018 BUILD grant application.

Gastonia and Lowell, in partnership with Gaston County, NC, are seeking BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant funds to complete the funding package necessary to implement the Lineberger Connector project between the two cities.

This public-private partnership will achieve both local and regional benefits, and I highly recommend this project to you.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this application.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Bumgardner".

Dana Bumgardner





PATRICK T. McHENRY  
CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS  
10TH DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA

2334 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-2576  
FAX: (202) 225-0316  
www.house.gov/mchenry

VICE CHAIRMAN,  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-3310

DISTRICT OFFICES:  
87 FOURTH STREET, NW  
SUITE A  
P.O. BOX 1830  
HICKORY, NC 28603  
(828) 327-6100  
FAX: (828) 327-8311

GASTONIA DISTRICT OFFICE:  
128 WEST MAIN AVENUE, SUITE 115  
GASTONIA, NC 28052  
(704) 833-0096  
FAX: (704) 833-0887

BUNCOMBE REGIONAL OFFICE:  
BLACK MOUNTAIN TOWN HALL  
160 MIDLAND AVENUE  
BLACK MOUNTAIN, NC 28711  
(828) 689-0600

TOLL FREE IN NC  
(800) 477-2576

July 9, 2018

Secretary Elaine L. Chao  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Office of the Secretary  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

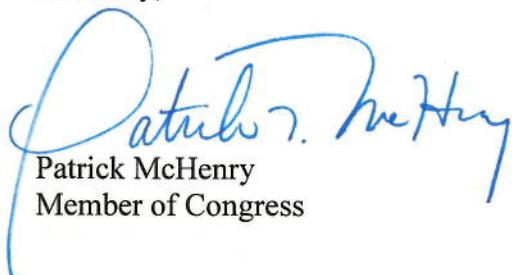
It has recently come to my attention that the Cities of Gastonia and Lowell, in partnership with Gaston County, have submitted to the U.S. Department of Transportation an application for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant program for the Lineberger Connector Project.

As you carefully assess candidates from across the nation, I trust you will recognize the merit of the proposal submitted by the Cities of Gastonia and Lowell and appreciate that they uphold the original intent of the BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant program.

Specifically, funding of the Lineberger Connector Project will allow for the development of a new roadway and a new bridge connecting the two most congested exits in Gaston County on Interstate 85. As a result, the cities expect this project to help alleviate traffic congestion, ensure the safety of both pedestrians and bikers, spur economic growth and job creation, and improve the overall appearance of Gaston County and the surrounding area.

Recognizing the noteworthy efforts of Cities of Gastonia and Lowell in North Carolina, I ask that you give its proposal serious and fair consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Worrell of my staff at 202-225-2576 or [Chris.Worrell@mail.house.gov](mailto:Chris.Worrell@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,



Patrick McHenry  
Member of Congress





June 8, 2018

Mr. Arch Lineberger  
203 North Main Street  
Belmont, NC 28012

Dear Mr. Lineberger:

Thank you for meeting with leaders at CaroMont Health to review the development proposal for the Lineberger property located on the north side of I-85 between exits 21 and 22. Your development represents an outstanding opportunity for Gaston County's economic growth. We cannot express our support strongly enough.

For many years, CaroMont Health has viewed the Lineberger property as a strategic location for medical use such as a medical office complex and long-term care or assisted living facilities. Potential connectivity to CaroMont Regional Medical Center affords CaroMont an option for campus growth with the right access points. The most essential access is the I-85 flyover connecting Franklin Boulevard to the Lineberger property. The availability of a Federal TIGER or BUILD grant to provide this access is critical. Additional road infrastructure surrounding and connecting the property is vitally important, in particular access to and from the Lineberger property via Court Dr.

As the largest employer in Gaston County with over 4,000 employees, CaroMont Health is primed to grow to serve our community. We are exploring options for campus expansion. Thus, we have an interest in the development possibilities of the Lineberger property. We are eager to hear about the status of grants to provide the necessary infrastructure and access.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard Blackburn".

Richard Blackburn  
Vice President  
CaroMont Health



**PROCLAMATION FROM THE  
GASTON REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**



**WHEREAS**, more than seven hundred organizations distinguish themselves as the voice of business as the Gaston Regional Chamber of Commerce; and

**WHEREAS**, the Gaston Regional Chamber unceasingly promotes their community for quality growth and development; and

**WHEREAS**, the business community, represented through the Gaston Regional Chamber, has been a driving force in fostering enhanced educational opportunities, infrastructure improvements, leadership development, the creation of jobs, and a positive vision of the future; and

**WHEREAS**, the Gaston Regional Chamber has been a strong partner with the City of Gastonia, City of Lowell, and County of Gaston in public and private development; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lineberger Connector project will improve traffic flow, provide greater economic mobility, stimulate economic growth, and transform the overall economic impact for the region.

**NOW THEREFORE**, BE IT PROCLAIMED THAT THE GASTON REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FULLY SUPPORTS SUBMISSION OF THE LINEBERGER CONNECTOR 2018 BUILD GRANT.

**PROCLAIMED THIS 15th DAY OF JUNE, 2018.**

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Steve D'Avria, President & CEO  
Gaston Regional Chamber of Commerce





1212 Spruce Street, Suite 203, Belmont, NC 28012  
(980) 283-7200 (o) [www.gastondevcorp.com](http://www.gastondevcorp.com)

July 9, 2018

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

**RE: LINEBERGER CONNECTOR 2018 BUILD GRANT**

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Greater Gaston Development Corporation (GGDC) is very pleased to submit this letter of support for the Lineberger Connector 2018 BUILD Grant application. The GGDC is a business-driven non-profit corporation the membership of which includes many of the largest private and public sector employers in Gaston County, North Carolina. Our mission is to implement a strategic plan designed to stimulate job growth and attract investment to the county, and increasing transportation and access is fundamentally important to achieving those strategic objectives. The proposed Lineberger Connector is critical to meet our community's transportation and economic development needs, and we respectfully request your approval of this 2018 BUILD Grant application.

The Cities of Gastonia and Lowell, in partnership with Gaston County, are seeking BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant funds to complete the funding package necessary to implement the Lineberger Connector project between the two communities. The project blends the needs of all mode types into a plan for residents and visitors, while also respecting the history and amenities that give these communities their charm and unique personality. It will be a bridge, bike path, pedestrian link, transit route, freight mobility option, network connector, and gateway – all combining into a unique and powerful opportunity. The Lineberger Connector will complete the network, linking the communities together.

With a county population of over 200,000, improving mobility for the many residents and businesses located along the I-85 corridor is truly a challenge, and the Lineberger Connector is an opportunity to make critical progress on that issue. This project will improve traffic flow for residents of both communities as well as regional commuters. The Lineberger Connector project includes a new location roadway and a new bridge over I-85 connecting both sides of I-85 between Franklin Boulevard to the south and NC 7 to the north, and is the first phase of implementing a broader plan to provide connectivity east and west through new collector/distributor roads between Exit 21 (Cox Road) and Exit 22 (S. Main Street).

The new grade separation will also unlock more than 450 acres of undeveloped property that has the size and location to support a development of regional importance, so long as access to the site was improved. These improvements would provide much needed economic mobility for a broad range of citizens in both communities as well as leverage infrastructure improvements to drive economic growth. The construction of the Lineberger Connector project itself has the potential to be a critical project for the region with an overall economic impact exceeding \$100 million.

In recognition of this transformational quality of the Lineberger Connector, the recently-completed Gaston County CLT Airport Connected Economic Positioning Strategy (CLT Strategy) identified the Lineberger Connector (and the access it would provide to the 450 acre undeveloped Lineberger Tract) as one of the key Economic Mobility Corridors in Gaston County. With extensive I-85 frontage, proximity to CaroMont Health's Regional Medical Center Campus and Office Park, potential for access to both the extensive retail, restaurant and services available immediately on the south side of I-85, and the NC 7 connections to many of Gaston's charming smaller town centers, 450 acre tract with the Connector has the potential to catalyze a range of highly-desirable economic opportunities. The CLT Strategy further recommends that a mass transit corridor be developed along Franklin Boulevard with Transit Oriented Developments at key locations, and certainly the Lineberger Connector and Cox Road intersections with Franklin Boulevard would be potential locations for TOD along the corridor. We are pleased that additional input and analysis of the Lineberger Connector is being provided for the grant application by MXD Development Strategists, who prepared the CLT Strategy, and we trust that the MXD analysis is both compelling and insightful.

In addition, the area in which the Lineberger Connector Project is located has been certified by the U.S. Treasury Department as an Opportunity Zone, upon recommendation by the NC Department of Commerce. Once the necessary Opportunity Zone procedures and guidelines are completed, this should bring a much-needed infusion of investment dollars for economic development into the most distressed rural and urban areas of our state, and potentially assist with development in the broader area served by the Lineberger Connector.

This project will exemplify a strong public-private partnership involving multiple partners in both the public and private sectors, including collaboration among neighboring jurisdictions to achieve both local and regional benefits. By providing critical access and mobility, it will serve to increase investment in Gaston County, grow the tax base and help to create jobs for our citizens.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this application and we respectfully urge its approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Cramer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark C. Cramer  
Executive Director



## **MOVING YOU FORWARD**

July 12, 2018

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

RE: Gaston County - Lineberger Connector BUILD Application

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of Progressive Rail Incorporated, I am pleased to submit this letter of support for the Lineberger Connector 2018 BUILD grant application in Gaston County, North Carolina.

Progressive Rail is a short line railroad holding company based in Lakeville, Minnesota, that operates the Piedmont & Northern Railroad in Gaston County and has fostered a close working relationship with the local governments along the rail line.

The Cities of Gastonia and Lowell, in partnership with Gaston County, are seeking a BUILD grant to fund a portion of the "Lineberger Connector" project between the two communities. Gaston County's population now exceeds 200,000. This project will improve transportation options for more than 75,000 residents along the busy I-85 corridor. Just west of the state's largest city, these communities' existing transportation infrastructure is under pressure from the Charlotte region's spectacular growth.

The Lineberger Connector project provides a solution to the transportation demands of most modes, including a bridge, a bike path, a pedestrian link, a transit route, and a freight mobility option. A new roadway and bridge over I-85 connecting both sides of I-85 between Franklin Boulevard and NC 7 to the north is the project's core, completing the north/south connections between NC 7 and Franklin Boulevard. This is the first phase of a broader plan to upgrade east/west connectivity through new collector/distributor roads between Exit 21 (Cox Road) and Exit 22 (S. Main Street).

The new grade separation will open more than 450 acres for development, providing greater economic opportunity for citizens in both communities, leveraging infrastructure improvements to stimulate economic growth, and providing new rail transload opportunities. Total economic impact is estimated to exceed \$100 million.

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
Page 2  
RE: Gaston County

The area containing the Lineberger Connector has been recommended by the state Department of Commerce for certification as an Opportunity Zone, offering much-needed development investment in the state's most distressed areas.

This project is the result of a strong public-private partnership involving multiple partners in the public and private sectors, including collaboration among neighboring jurisdictions to achieve regional benefits.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Fellon", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dave Fellon  
President  
Progressive Rail Incorporated

July 4, 2018

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

**RE: LINEBERGER CONNECTOR 2018 BUILD GRANT**

The Honorable Elaine Chao:

On behalf of the many landowners on the north side of Interstate 85 between Exits 21 and 22 who currently lack adequate access, please accept this letter of support for the Lineberger Connector 2018 BUILD Grant application.

Interstate 85 currently acts as a barrier isolating almost 450 acres of virgin land that cannot be developed due to a lack of access. The land lies inside the city limits of both **Gastonia and Lowell** but is currently limited to use as tree farms due to a lack of connectivity to the developed area on the south side of the interstate. With a county population of over 200,000, improving the mobility of almost 78,000 people in these communities along the I-85 corridor is challenging. Development and transportation pressures are coming from the Charlotte metropolis just 17 miles to the east and the multimodal CLT airport only 10 miles away.

The Lineberger Connector will ameliorate these issues using all modes of transportation while respecting the history and amenities that give these communities their charm and unique personality. It will include a **bridge, bike path, pedestrian link, transit route, freight mobility option, network connector, and gateway - an opportunity**. The new roadway and bridge over I-85 will connect US29/74 to the south and NC7 to the north, leaping the interstate barrier. It forms the most important first phase of a broader plan to provide connectivity east and west through new collector/distributor roads between Exit 21 (in Gastonia) and Exit 22 (in Lowell).

The Connector will **improve traffic flow** to the nearby regional hospital while unlocking more than 450 acres of property for development and further transportation improvements. This area has been certified as an **Opportunity Zone** needing an infusion of investment dollars for economic development in the distressed urban areas of our state. As you can see by the many letters of interest from area developers that are included with the application, the Lineberger Connector will be a **transformational project** creating 18,600 permanent jobs, 5,700 construction employment years, and \$57 million in annual tax revenue.

The Lineberger Connector project exemplifies a strong **public-private partnership** involving multiple partners in both the public and private sectors, including collaboration and support among all neighboring jurisdictions to achieve both **local and regional benefits**.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



Arch C. Lineberger, for the owners