

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT APPLICATION TO U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION'S 2020 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 Aberdeen Boulevard east to connect to the existing Lineberger Road with improvements north to NC 7, and provide direct access to approximately 400 acres of property that is ripe for local and regional development and;

WHEREAS, the cities of Gastonia and Lowell, in partnership with the property owner, are actively working with NorthPoint Development for the development of the Lineberger property and;

WHEREAS, the proposed development will include over 4,675,000 s.f. of warehouse and wholesale sales, distribution, and storage operations and;

WHEREAS, upon full buildout, NorthPoint Development is estimating a total of 2,571 new jobs and;

WHEREAS, the property currently has only one access point via Lineberger Road, which is a substandard two-lane facility with an at-grade crossing of the Norfolk Southern rail corridor and;

WHEREAS, in order for freight trucks to avoid this access, it is imperative that Aberdeen Boulevard be extended through the site to allow for a connection to Cox Road to the west, with safe and direct access to I-85 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 completely within a federally designated 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 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, 5th day of May, 2020 upon a motion of J. Gallagher and seconded by C. Odorn by a vote of 6 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 May 5, 2020.

Sherry H. Dunaway
Sherry H. Dunaway
City Clerk
(seal)
5-5-2020

Date



**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT APPLICATION TO U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION'S 2020 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 Aberdeen Boulevard east to connect to the existing Lineberger Road with improvements north to NC 7, and provide direct access to approximately 400 acres of property that is ripe for local and regional development and;

WHEREAS, the cities of Gastonia and Lowell, in partnership with the property owner, are actively working with NorthPoint Development for the development of the Lineberger property and;

WHEREAS, the proposed development will include over 4,675,000 s.f. of warehouse and wholesale sales, distribution, and storage operations and;

WHEREAS, upon full buildout, NorthPoint Development is estimating a total of 2,571 new jobs and;

WHEREAS, the property currently has only one access point via Lineberger Road, which is a substandard two-lane facility with an at-grade crossing of the Norfolk Southern rail corridor and;

WHEREAS, in order for freight trucks to avoid this access, it is imperative that Aberdeen Boulevard be extended through the site to allow for a connection to Cox Road to the west, with safe and direct access to I-85 and;

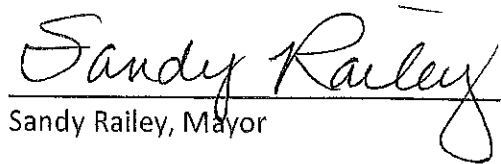
WHEREAS, this proposed project presents a unique opportunity to provide accessibility to an area that could produce significant economic development and job creation along Interstate 85 and;

WHEREAS, the area in which the Lineberger Connector Project is located completely within a federally designated 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;

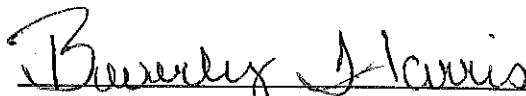
WHEREAS, the project will exemplify a strong public-private partnership involving multiple partners in both the public and private sectors, including collaboration among neighboring jurisdictions to achieve both local and regional benefits, now;

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

Resolution adopted this the, 12th day of May, 2020 upon a motion of Councilmember Ervin and seconded by Councilmember Gillespie by a vote of 5 affirmative votes to 0 negative votes.


Sandy Railey, Mayor

ATTEST:


Beverly Harris, City Clerk





**RESOLUTION TITLE: GASTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT APPLICATION TO U.S. DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION'S 2020 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 Aberdeen Boulevard east to connect to the existing Lineberger Road with improvements north to NC 7, and provide direct access to approximately 400 acres of property that is ripe for local and regional development; and,
- WHEREAS, the cities of Gastonia and Lowell, in partnership with the property owner, are actively working with NorthPoint Development for the development of the Lineberger property; and,
- WHEREAS, the proposed development will include over 4,675,000 s.f. of warehouse and wholesale sales, distribution, and storage operations; and,
- WHEREAS, upon full buildout, NorthPoint Development is estimating a total of 2,571 new jobs; and,
- WHEREAS, the property currently has only one access point via Lineberger Road, which is a substandard two-lane facility with an at-grade crossing of the Norfolk Southern rail corridor; and,
- WHEREAS, in order for freight trucks to avoid this access, it is imperative that Aberdeen Boulevard be extended through the site to allow for a connection to Cox Road to the west, with safe and direct access to I-85; 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,

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:

Donna S. Buff

Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission

NO.	DATE	M1	M2	CBrown	JBrown	AFraley	BHovis	TKeigher	TPhilbeck	RWorley	Vote
2020-116	04/28/2020	RW	BH	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	U

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GASTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT APPLICATION TO U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S 2020
BETTER UTILIZING INVESTMENTS TO LEVERAGE DEVELOPMENT (BUILD) TRANSPORTATION
DISCRETIONARY GRANTS PROGRAM
Page 2

WHEREAS, the area in which the Lineberger Connector Project is located completely within a federally designated 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 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners hereby declares support for the funding and construction of the Lineberger Connector Project.

Resolution adopted this the, 28th day of April, 2020 upon a motion of Commissioner Ronnie Worley and seconded by Commissioner Bob Hovis by a vote of 7 affirmative votes to 0 negative votes.



Tracy L. Philbeck, Chairman

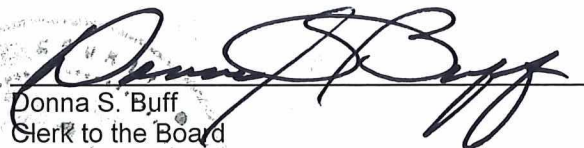
ATTEST:



Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the Board

Certification

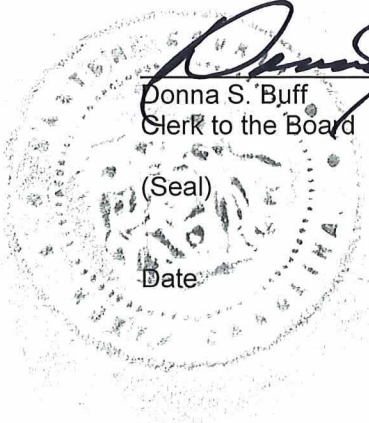
The undersigned duly qualified Clerk of the Gaston County Board of County Commissioners certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of Gaston County held on April 28, 2020.



Donna S. Buff
Clerk to the Board

(Seal)

Date



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:

HICKORY DISTRICT OFFICE:
1990 Main Ave., SE, 28602
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) 669-0600

TOLL FREE IN NC
(800) 477-2576

June 9, 2020

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

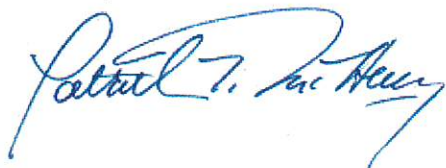
It has recently come to my attention that the City of Gastonia, NC, in partnership with the City of Lowell and Gaston County, has submitted to the U.S. Department of Transportation an application for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant program 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 City of Gastonia and appreciate that they uphold the original intent of the BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant program.

Specifically, funding of the Lineberger Connector Project, which is located in a federally designated opportunity zone, will allow for the development and construction of a new roadway that opens up access to close to 400 acres of infill property with superior access to the Interstate 85 corridor. As a result, the cities expect this project to spur economic growth and job creation, while also helping to alleviate traffic congestion, ensuring the safety of both pedestrians and bikers, and improving the overall appearance of Gaston County and the surrounding area.

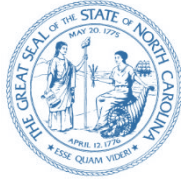
Recognizing the noteworthy efforts of the Cities of Gastonia and Lowell in North Carolina, I ask that you give its proposal serious and fair consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Sean McCabe of my staff at 202-225-2576 or Sean.McCabe@mail.house.gov

Sincerely,



Patrick McHenry
Member of Congress

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North Carolina General Assembly House of Representatives

Representative John A. Torbett
108th District

Office: 538 Legislative Office Building
300 N. Salisbury Street
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925
Phone: (919) 733-5868
Fax: (919) 754-3612
Email: john.torbett@ncleg.net
District: 210 Blue Ridge Drive
Stanley, NC 28164
Phone: (704) 263-9282

COMMITTEES

Senior Chairman, Transportation
Chairman, Appropriations Transportation
Chairman, House Select Committee on Strategic
Transportation Planning and Long Term Funding Solutions
Chairman, Joint Transportation Legislative Oversight Committee
Chairman, School Safety
Chairman, Homelessness, Foster Care, and Dependency
Vice-Chairman, Appropriations
Vice-Chairman, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House
Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations
Judiciary
Redistricting

April 30, 2020

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

RE: LINEBERGER CONNECTOR 2020 BUILD GRANT

The Honorable Elaine Chao:

I am writing with my strong support for the **Lineberger Connector** 2020 BUILD Grant application, being submitted by the **City of Gastonia** in partnership with the **City of Lowell** and **Gaston County**, all of which are in North Carolina.

This project is transformational to economic recovery as this region continues to struggle following devastating downturns in local economies and severe losses as a result of NAFTA. Within five years after NAFTA, more than 50 plants had closed permanently, including the seven (7) largest industries. Over 7,500 citizens lost their jobs. By 2002, there were numerous more plant closings, an estimated 13,000 people who wanted to work didn't have a job, \$70 million was lost in water/sewer revenue alone, and residents were left feeling hopeless. This level of damage would be nearly impossible for a community of any size to absorb; the impact on these small and rural communities and entire families within them was life changing.

Adjacent to Charlotte, NC, and connected by I-85, these communities have a new opportunity to regain the previous vibrant economy that employed 19,000 people and the quality of life they deserve that was once provided by the textile industry. Situated just north of I-85 in Gaston County, the project area remains one of the largest undeveloped properties along the I-85 corridor west of Charlotte; however, this is not from a lack of planning efforts. In fact, several master plans have been developed over the years, depicting a variety of land uses for the property. Within each master plan, access and connectivity have always been left for future consideration. Without a feasible plan for these elements, the property has remained undeveloped.

UNTIL NOW.

The Lineberger Connector is the construction of a new roadway from Cox Road to the west to NC Highway 7 to the north that opens up access to close to 400 acres of infill property with superior access to the I-85 corridor. Completely located in a certified **Opportunity Zone**, the Lineberger Connector project will create an estimated **2,571 new jobs** with a total **annual wage of \$103,820,000**. The cities of Gastonia and Lowell, in partnership with the property owner, are actively in discussions with NorthPoint Development for the development of the Lineberger property. The development will include over **4,693,000 s.f. of warehouse and wholesale sales, distribution, and storage operations**. The Lineberger Connector project is a significant piece of infrastructure for the communities of Gastonia and Lowell and **BUILD funding is critical** to advance and construct this project.

The property currently has only one access point via Lineberger Road, which is a substandard two-lane facility with an at-grade crossing of the Norfolk Southern rail corridor. In order for freight trucks to avoid this access, it is imperative that Aberdeen Boulevard be extended through the site to allow for a connection to Cox Road to the west, with safe and direct access to I-85.

Freight is the economy in motion. As the greater Charlotte region has grown, its economy has become more diverse and a growing population consumes an even wider range of goods and services. The movement of goods continues to be an essential building block of the region's economic competitiveness. For the Charlotte region, freight mobility planning is critical to help the region's planning organizations and leaders balance current and future demands for freight mobility, economic growth, and land development. It is imperative that the cities of Gastonia and Lowell take actions to strengthen the region's freight transportation system to ensure that it provides safe, reliable and efficient freight mobility for our current needs as well as anticipated future needs.

I appreciate your serious consideration of the application and my support for it.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John A. Jurbeth". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.



North Carolina General Assembly
House Of Representatives

REPRESENTATIVE KELLY HASTINGS
110TH DISTRICT

OFFICE: 2208 LEGISLATIVE BUILDING
16 W. JONES STREET
RALEIGH, NC 27601-1096

PHONE: (919) 715-2002

FAX: (919) 754-3305

EMAIL: kelly.hastings@ncleg.net

DISTRICT: 110

CLEVELAND, GASTON

COMMITTEES:

CHAIRMAN: APPROPRIATIONS - CAPITAL

CHAIRMAN: EDUCATION - UNIVERSITIES

VICE CHAIRMAN: APPROPRIATIONS

ENERGY AND PUBLIC UTILITIES

REDISTRICTING

RULES, CALENDAR, AND OPERATIONS OF THE HOUSE

April 29, 2020

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

RE: LINEBERGER CONNECTOR 2020 BUILD GRANT

The Honorable Elaine Chao:

I am writing to support the **Lineberger Connector** 2020 BUILD Grant application, being submitted by the **City of Gastonia** in partnership with the **City of Lowell** and **Gaston County**.

This project is transformational to economic recovery as this region continues to struggle following devastating downturns in local economies and severe losses as a result of NAFTA.

We have a new opportunity to regain the previous vibrant economy that employed thousands of people.

The Lineberger Connector is the construction of a new roadway from Cox Road to the west to NC Highway 7 to the north that opens up access to close to 400 acres of infill property with superior access to the I-85 corridor. Completely located in a certified **Opportunity Zone**, the Lineberger Connector project will create an estimated thousands of jobs.

According to planners and others, the property currently has only one access point via Lineberger Road, which is a substandard two-lane facility with an at-grade crossing of the Norfolk Southern rail corridor. In order for freight trucks to avoid this access, it is imperative that Aberdeen Boulevard be extended through the site to allow for a connection to Cox Road to the west, with safe and direct access to I-85.

I appreciate your serious consideration of the application and my support for it.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelly E. Hastings". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Rep. Kelly E. Hastings



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

J. ERIC BOYETTE
SECRETARY

May 18, 2020

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

RE: LINEBERGER CONNECTOR 2020 BUILD GRANT

The Honorable Elaine Chao:

On behalf of the North Carolina Department of Transportation, I am writing with our strong support for the **Lineberger Connector** 2020 BUILD Grant application, being submitted by the **City of Gastonia** in partnership with the **City Lowell** and **Gaston County**.

This project is transformational to economic recovery as this region continues to struggle following devastating downturns in local economies and severe losses as a result of NAFTA. Within five years after NAFTA, more than 50 plants had closed permanently, including the seven (7) largest industries. Over 7,500 citizens lost their jobs. By 2002, there were numerous more plant closings, an estimated 13,000 people who wanted to work didn't have a job, \$70 million was lost in water/sewer revenue alone, and residents were left feeling hopeless. This level of damage would be nearly impossible for a community of any size to absorb; the impact on these small and rural communities and entire families within them was life changing.

Adjacent to Charlotte, NC, and connected by I-85, these communities have a new opportunity to regain the previous vibrant economy that employed 19,000 people and the quality of life they deserve that was once provided by the textile industry. Situated just north of I-85 in Gaston County, the project area remains one of the largest undeveloped properties along the I-85 corridor west of Charlotte; however, this is not from a lack of planning efforts. In fact, several master plans have been developed over the years, depicting a variety of land uses for the property. Within each master plan, access and connectivity have always been left for future consideration. Without a feasible plan for these elements, the property has remained undeveloped.

UNTIL NOW.

The Lineberger Connector is the construction of a new roadway from Cox Road to the west to NC Highway 7 to the north that opens up access to close to 400 acres of infill property with superior access to the I-85 corridor. Completely located in a certified **Opportunity Zone**, the Lineberger

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

Secretary Elaine L. Chao
May 18, 2020
Page 2

Connector project will create an estimated **2,571 new jobs** with a total **annual wage of \$103,820,000**. The cities of Gastonia and Lowell, in partnership with the property owner, are actively in discussions with NorthPoint Development for the development of the Lineberger property. The development will include over **4,693,000 s.f. of warehouse and wholesale sales, distribution, and storage operations**. The Lineberger Connector project is a significant piece of infrastructure for the communities of Gastonia and Lowell and **BUILD funding is critical** to advance and construct this project.

The property currently has only one access point via Lineberger Road, which is a substandard two-lane facility with an at-grade crossing of the Norfolk Southern rail corridor. In order for freight trucks to avoid this access, it is imperative that Aberdeen Boulevard be extended through the site to allow for a connection to Cox Road to the west, with safe and direct access to I-85.

Freight is the economy in motion. As the greater Charlotte region has grown, its economy has become more diverse and a growing population consumes an even wider range of goods and services. The movement of goods continues to be an essential building block of the region's economic competitiveness. For the Charlotte region, freight mobility planning is critical to help the region's planning organizations and leaders balance current and future demands for freight mobility, economic growth, and land development. It is imperative that the cities of Gastonia and Lowell take actions to strengthen the region's freight transportation system to ensure that it provides safe, reliable and efficient freight mobility for our current needs as well as anticipated future needs.

I appreciate your serious consideration of the application and my support for it.

Respectfully submitted,



J. Eric Boyette
Secretary

**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

May 28, 2020

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

RE: LINEBERGER CONNECTOR 2020 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** 2020 BUILD grant application.

This project is transformational to economic recovery as this region continues to struggle following devastating downturns in local economies and severe losses as a result of NAFTA. Within five years after NAFTA, more than 50 plants had closed permanently, including the seven (7) largest industries. Over 7,500 citizens lost their jobs. By 2002, there were numerous more plant closings, an estimated 13,000 people who wanted to work didn't have a job, \$70 million was lost in water/sewer revenue alone, and residents were left feeling hopeless. This level of damage would be nearly impossible for a community of any size to absorb; the impact on these small and rural communities and entire families within them was life changing.

Adjacent to Charlotte, NC, and connected by I-85, these communities have a new opportunity to regain the previous vibrant economy that employed 19,000 people and the quality of life they deserve that was once provided by the textile industry. Situated just north of I-85 in Gaston County, the project area remains one of the largest undeveloped properties along the I-85 corridor west of Charlotte; however, this is not from a lack of planning efforts. In fact, several master plans have been developed over the years, depicting a variety of land uses for the property. Within each master plan, access and connectivity have always been left for future consideration. Without a feasible plan for these elements, the property has remained undeveloped.

UNTIL NOW.

The Lineberger Connector is the construction of a new roadway from Cox Road to the west to NC Highway 7 to the north that opens up access to close to 400 acres of infill property with superior access to the I-85 corridor. Completely located in a certified **Opportunity Zone**, the Lineberger Connector project will create an estimated **2,571 new jobs** with a total **annual wage of \$103,820,000**. The cities of Gastonia and Lowell, in partnership with the property owner, are actively in discussions with NorthPoint Development for the development of the Lineberger property. The development will include over **4,693,000 s.f. of warehouse and wholesale sales, distribution, and storage operations**. The Lineberger

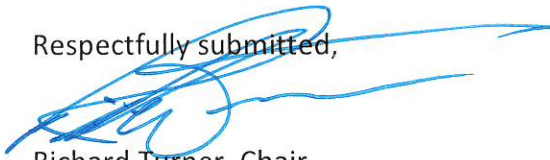
Connector project is a significant piece of infrastructure for the communities of Gastonia and Lowell and **BUILD funding is critical** to advance and construct this project.

The property currently has only one access point via Lineberger Road, which is a substandard two-lane facility with an at-grade crossing of the Norfolk Southern rail corridor. In order for freight trucks to avoid this access, it is imperative that Aberdeen Boulevard be extended through the site to allow for a connection to Cox Road to the west, with safe and direct access to I-85.

Freight is the economy in motion. As the greater Charlotte region has grown, its economy has become more diverse and a growing population consumes an even wider range of goods and services. The movement of goods continues to be an essential building block of the region's economic competitiveness. For the Charlotte region, freight mobility planning is critical to help the region's planning organizations and leaders balance current and future demands for freight mobility, economic growth, and land development. It is imperative that the cities of Gastonia and Lowell take actions to strengthen the region's freight transportation system to ensure that it provides safe, reliable and efficient freight mobility for our current needs as well as anticipated future needs.

I appreciate your serious consideration of the application and my support for it.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Richard Turner', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard Turner, Chair
GCLMPO Board



May 1, 2020

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

RE: LINEBERGER CONNECTOR 2020 BUILD GRANT

The Honorable Elaine Chao:

On behalf of NorthPoint Development, I am writing with our strong support for the **Lineberger Connector** 2020 BUILD Grant application, being submitted by the **City of Gastonia** in partnership with the **City Lowell** and **Gaston County**. As the developer, we are committed to providing matching funds in ROW dedication and storm water management and detention/retention facilities.

This project is transformational to economic recovery as this region continues to struggle following devastating downturns in local economies and severe losses as a result of NAFTA. Within five years after NAFTA, more than 50 plants had closed permanently, including the seven (7) largest industries. Over 7,500 citizens lost their jobs. By 2002, there were numerous more plant closings, an estimated 13,000 people who wanted to work didn't have a job, \$70 million was lost in water/sewer revenue alone, and residents were left feeling hopeless. This level of damage would be nearly impossible for a community of any size to absorb; the impact on these small and rural communities and entire families within them was life changing.

Adjacent to Charlotte, NC, and connected by I-85, these communities have a new opportunity to regain the previous vibrant economy that employed 19,000 people and the quality of life they deserve that was once provided by the textile industry. Situated just north of I-85 in Gaston County, the project area remains one of the largest undeveloped properties along the I-85 corridor west of Charlotte; however, this is not from a lack of planning efforts. In fact, several master plans have been developed over the years, depicting a variety of land uses for the property. Within each master plan, access and connectivity have always been left for future consideration. Without a feasible plan for these elements, the property has remained undeveloped.

UNTIL NOW.

The Lineberger Connector is the construction of a new roadway from Cox Road to the west to NC Highway 7 to the north that opens up access to close to 400 acres of infill property with superior access to the I-85 corridor.

As one of the nation's largest privately-held industrial development companies, we understand the challenges and opportunity to transform this land into a hub of industrial, manufacturing, warehousing and distribution development. The project will be a focal point of new economic activity and growth. At full build-out, the development will include approximately **4,693,000 s.f. of industrial, manufacturing warehousing and distribution center developments and require nearly a quarter of a billion dollars of private capital investment.** The project is anticipated to create over **2,571 new direct jobs** within the development with a total **annual payroll of \$103,820,000.** The Lineberger Connector project is a significant piece of infrastructure for the communities of Gastonia and Lowell and **BUILD funding is critical** to advance and construct this project.

The property currently has only one access point via Lineberger Road, which is a substandard two-lane facility with an at-grade crossing of the Norfolk Southern rail corridor. In order for freight trucks to avoid this access, it is imperative that Aberdeen Boulevard be extended through the site to allow for a connection to Cox Road to the west, with safe and direct access to I-85.

Freight is the economy in motion. As the greater Charlotte region has grown, its economy has become more diverse and a growing population consumes an even wider range of goods and services. The movement of goods continues to be an essential building block of the region's economic competitiveness. For the Charlotte region, freight mobility planning is critical to help the region's planning organizations and leaders balance current and future demands for freight mobility, economic growth, and land development. It is imperative that the cities of Gastonia and Lowell take actions to strengthen the region's freight transportation system to ensure that it provides safe, reliable and efficient freight mobility for our current needs as well as anticipated future needs.

I appreciate your serious consideration of the application and my support for it.

Respectfully submitted,

A blue ink signature of Nathaniel Hagedorn.

Nathaniel Hagedorn
CEO and Founder
NorthPoint Development

A blue ink signature of Ian McDonald.

Ian McDonald
Vice President of Development
NorthPoint Development



May 4, 2020

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

RE: LINEBERGER CONNECTOR 2020 BUILD GRANT

The Honorable Elaine Chao:

On behalf of the Gaston County Economic Development Commission, I am writing with our strong support for the Lineberger Connector 2020 BUILD Grant application, being submitted by the City of Gastonia in partnership with the City Lowell and Gaston County.

The Gaston County Economic Development Commission is charged with the retention and recruitment of business & industry. Our goal is to continue to diversify the local economic base for our community. Over the last several years the EDC has worked to rebuild our local economy through partnerships with private entities to create employment centers throughout the County. The one notable exception is the Lineberger site along Interstate 85.

Situated just north of I-85 in Gaston County, the Lineberger site project area remains one of the largest undeveloped properties along the I-85 corridor west of Charlotte; however, this is not from a lack of planning efforts. In fact, several master plans have been developed over the years, depicting a variety of land uses for the property. Within each master plan, access and connectivity have always been left for future consideration due to the complex nature of the site. No one entity can make this project a reality as it will take the strengths of all partners in this Lineberger Connector 2020 Build Grant to achieve a positive result.

This project is essential to our community's on-going economic recovery efforts following COVID 19. Prior to the pandemic Gaston County suffered job losses during the Great Recession of 2008 and in the late nineties with the consequences of the NAFTA program. By far the greater job losses came during the time of NAFTA as many companies simply ceased to exist.

This development represents an opportunity to complete a public private partnership which will create jobs and investment for our area. The damage which this pandemic has rapidly inflicted is nearly impossible for a community of any size to absorb. This project has the potential to become a major employment center for Gastonia, Lowell and the County.



The Lineberger Connector is the construction of a new roadway from Cox Road to the west to NC Highway 7 to the north that opens up access to close to 400 acres of infill property with superior access to the I-85 corridor. Completely located in a certified Opportunity Zone, the Lineberger Connector project will create an estimated 2,571 new jobs with a total annual wage of \$103,820,000. The cities of Gastonia and Lowell, in partnership with the property owner, are actively in discussions with NorthPoint Development for the development of the Lineberger property. The development will include over 4,693,000 s.f. of warehouse and wholesale sales, distribution, and storage operations. The Lineberger Connector project is a significant piece of infrastructure for the communities of Gastonia and Lowell and BUILD funding is critical to advance and construct this project.

The property currently has only one access point via Lineberger Road, which is a substandard two-lane facility with an at-grade crossing of the Norfolk Southern rail corridor. In order for freight trucks to avoid this access, it is imperative that Aberdeen Boulevard be extended through the site to allow for a connection to Cox Road to the west, with safe and direct access to I-85.

Transporting freight is the economy in motion. As the greater Charlotte region has grown, its economy has become more diverse and a growing population consumes an even wider range of goods and services. The movement of goods continues to be an essential building block of the region's economic competitiveness. For the Charlotte region, freight mobility planning is critical to help the region's planning organizations and leaders balance current and future demands for freight mobility, economic growth, and land development. It is imperative that the cities of Gastonia and Lowell take actions to strengthen the region's freight transportation system to ensure that it provides safe, reliable and efficient freight mobility for our current needs as well as anticipated future needs.

I appreciate your serious consideration of the application and my support for it.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Browne
Chairman
Gaston County Economic Development Commission

CC Donny Hicks, Executive Director





May 11, 2020

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

RE: LINEBERGER CONNECTOR 2020 BUILD GRANT

The Honorable Elaine Chao,

On behalf of the Greater Gaston Development Corporation, I am writing in strong support for the **Lineberger Connector** 2020 BUILD Grant application, being submitted by the **City of Gastonia** in partnership with the **City Lowell** and **Gaston County**.

This infrastructure project will be transformational to our region's economic recovery as it continues to struggle following devastating local economic downturns and job losses as a result of NAFTA. Within five years after NAFTA, more than 50 plants had closed permanently, including the seven (7) largest industries. Over 7,500 citizens lost their jobs. By 2002, there were numerous more plant closings, an estimated 13,000 people who wanted to work were unemployed, \$70 million was lost in water/sewer revenue alone, and residents were left feeling hopeless. The extent of the impact on our small, rural communities, and entire families within them, was life changing.

Adjacent to Charlotte, and connected by I-85, these communities now have a new opportunity to regain an economic vibrancy reminiscent of the textile industry that not long ago employed 19,000 people. Situated just north of I-85 in Gaston County, the Lineberger property remains one of the largest undeveloped parcels along the I-85 corridor west of Charlotte. Despite various master plans over the years, depicting a variety of land uses for the property, access and connectivity have always been left for future consideration. Without a feasible plan for these elements, this property has had limited development potential, until now.

The Lineberger Connector project represents a new roadway, from Cox Road to NC Highway 7, that opens up access to the Lineberger property, which is approximately 400 acres of infill land, and the I-85 corridor. Completely located in a certified **Opportunity Zone**, the project will create an estimated **2,571 new jobs** with a total **annual wage of \$103,820,000**. The cities of Gastonia and Lowell, the property owner, and NorthPoint Development are in discussions regarding the development of the Lineberger property. The proposed development will include over **4,693,000 s.f. of warehouse and wholesale sales, distribution, and storage operations**. The Lineberger



P.O. Box 735, Gastonia, NC 28053

www.gastondevcorp.com

Connector project is key to the success of this development and a significant piece of infrastructure for the communities of Gastonia and Lowell. **BUILD funding is essential** to advance and construct this project.

Additionally, the movement of goods continues to be a vital building block of the Charlotte region's economic competitiveness. Freight mobility is constrained from the Lineberger property due to its single access point via Lineberger Road, which is a substandard two-lane facility with an at-grade Norfolk Southern rail crossing. Consequently, it is important that Aberdeen Boulevard be extended through the site to allow for a connection to Cox Road to the west, with safe and direct access to I-85. The Lineberger Connector project supports not only needed development, but also the cities of Gastonia and Lowell in their desire to strengthen the region's overall freight transportation system's delivery of safe, reliable, and efficient freight mobility.

I again want to express my unequivocal support of the Lineberger Connector project and appreciate your thoughtful consideration of the application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patrick T. Mumford". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Patrick T. Mumford
Executive Director
Greater Gastonia Development Corporation

April 29, 2020

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



RE: LINEBERGER CONNECTOR 2020 BUILD GRANT

The Honorable Elaine Chao:

On behalf of the Gaston Regional Chamber of Commerce, I am writing with our strong support for the **Lineberger Connector** 2020 BUILD Grant application, being submitted by the **City of Gastonia** in partnership with the **City Lowell** and **Gaston County**.

This project is transformational to economic recovery as this region continues to struggle following devastating downturns in local economies and severe losses as a result of NAFTA. Within five years after NAFTA, more than 50 plants had closed permanently, including the seven (7) largest industries. Over 7,500 citizens lost their jobs. By 2002, there were numerous more plant closings, an estimated 13,000 people who wanted to work didn't have a job, \$70 million was lost in water/sewer revenue alone, and residents were left feeling hopeless. This level of damage would be nearly impossible for a community of any size to absorb; the impact on these small and rural communities and entire families within them was life changing.

Adjacent to Charlotte, NC, and connected by I-85, these communities have a new opportunity to regain the previous vibrant economy that employed 19,000 people and the quality of life they deserve that was once provided by the textile industry. Situated just north of I-85 in Gaston County, the project area remains one of the largest undeveloped properties along the I-85 corridor west of Charlotte; however, this is not from a lack of planning efforts. In fact, several master plans have been developed over the years, depicting a variety of land uses for the property. Within each master plan, access and connectivity have always been left for future consideration. Without a feasible plan for these elements, the property has remained undeveloped.

UNTIL NOW.

The Lineberger Connector is the construction of a new roadway from Cox Road to the west to NC Highway 7 to the north that opens up access to close to 400 acres of infill property with superior access to the I-85 corridor. Completely located in a certified **Opportunity Zone**, the Lineberger Connector project will create an estimated **2,571 new jobs** with a total **annual wage of \$103,820,000**. The cities of Gastonia and Lowell, in partnership with the property owner, are actively in discussions with NorthPoint Development for the development of the Lineberger property. The development will include over **4,693,000 s.f. of warehouse and wholesale sales, distribution, and storage operations**. The Lineberger Connector project is a significant piece of infrastructure for the communities of Gastonia and Lowell and **BUILD funding is critical** to advance and construct this project.



The property currently has only one access point via Lineberger Road, which is a substandard two-lane facility with an at-grade crossing of the Norfolk Southern rail corridor. In order for freight trucks to avoid this access, it is imperative that Aberdeen Boulevard be extended through the site to allow for a connection to Cox Road to the west, with safe and direct access to I-85.

Freight is the economy in motion. As the greater Charlotte region has grown, its economy has become more diverse and a growing population consumes an even wider range of goods and services. The movement of goods continues to be an essential building block of the region's economic competitiveness. For the Charlotte region, freight mobility planning is critical to help the region's planning organizations and leaders balance current and future demands for freight mobility, economic growth, and land development. It is imperative that the cities of Gastonia and Lowell take actions to strengthen the region's freight transportation system to ensure that it provides safe, reliable and efficient freight mobility for our current needs as well as anticipated future needs.

I appreciate your serious consideration of the application and my support for it.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Steve D'Avria', is written over a faint blue line.

Steven J. D'Avria
President & CEO
Gaston Regional Chamber of Commerce



May 7, 2020

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

RE: LINEBERGER CONNECTOR 2020 BUILD GRANT

The Honorable Elaine Chao:

On behalf of the Charlotte Regional Business Alliance, I am writing with our strong support for the **Lineberger Connector** 2020 BUILD Grant application, being submitted by the **City of Gastonia** in partnership with the **City Lowell** and **Gaston County**.

This project is transformational to economic recovery as this region continues to struggle following devastating downturns in local economies and severe losses as a result of NAFTA. Within five years after NAFTA, more than 50 plants had closed permanently, including the seven (7) largest industries. Over 7,500 citizens lost their jobs. By 2002, there were numerous more plant closings, an estimated 13,000 people who wanted to work didn't have a job, \$70 million was lost in water/sewer revenue alone, and residents were left feeling hopeless. This level of damage would be nearly impossible for a community of any size to absorb; the impact on these small and rural communities and entire families within them was life changing.

Adjacent to Charlotte, NC, and connected by I-85, these communities have a new opportunity to regain the previous vibrant economy that employed 19,000 people and the quality of life they deserve that was once provided by the textile industry. Situated just north of I-85 in Gaston County, the project area remains one of the largest undeveloped properties along the I-85 corridor west of Charlotte; however, this is not from a lack of planning efforts. In fact, several master plans have been developed over the years, depicting a variety of land uses for the property. Within each master plan, access and connectivity have always been left for future consideration. Without a feasible plan for these elements, the property has remained undeveloped.

UNTIL NOW.

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
May 7, 2020
Page 2

The Lineberger Connector is the construction of a new roadway from Cox Road to the west to NC Highway 7 to the north that opens up access to close to 400 acres of infill property with superior access to the I-85 corridor. Completely located in a certified **Opportunity Zone**, the Lineberger Connector project will create an estimated **2,571 new jobs** with a total **annual wage of \$103,820,000**. The cities of Gastonia and Lowell, in partnership with the property owner, are actively in discussions with NorthPoint Development for the development of the Lineberger property. The development will include over **4,693,000 s.f. of warehouse and wholesale sales, distribution, and storage operations**. The Lineberger Connector project is a significant piece of infrastructure for the communities of Gastonia and Lowell and **BUILD funding is critical** to advance and construct this project.

The property currently has only one access point via Lineberger Road, which is a substandard two-lane facility with an at-grade crossing of the Norfolk Southern rail corridor. In order for freight trucks to avoid this access, it is imperative that Aberdeen Boulevard be extended through the site to allow for a connection to Cox Road to the west, with safe and direct access to I-85.

Freight is the economy in motion. As the greater Charlotte region has grown, its economy has become more diverse and a growing population consumes an even wider range of goods and services. The movement of goods continues to be an essential building block of the region's economic competitiveness. For the Charlotte region, freight mobility planning is critical to help the region's planning organizations and leaders balance current and future demands for freight mobility, economic growth, and land development. It is imperative that the cities of Gastonia and Lowell take actions to strengthen the region's freight transportation system to ensure that it provides safe, reliable and efficient freight mobility for our current needs as well as anticipated future needs.

I appreciate your serious consideration of the application and my support for it.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Bost", written in a cursive style.

Joe Bost
SVP, Government Affairs
Charlotte Regional Business Alliance