

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

Transportation Planning

October 13, 2017

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

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PO Box 1748
Gastonia, North Carolina 28053

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Gastonia, North Carolina 28052

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www.gclmpo.org

RE: GASTONIA-LOWELL LINEBERGER CONNECTOR FY 2017 TIGER GRANT

The Honorable Elaine Chao:

On behalf of the Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization (GCLMPO), please accept this letter of support for the Gastonia-Lowell Lineberger Connector FY 2017 TIGER grant application.

The **City of Gastonia** in conjunction with the **City of Lowell** are seeking TIGER Discretionary Grant funds to complete the funding package necessary to implement the Lineberger Connector project between the two communities. Protecting 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 difficult. Understanding that these communities are located just west of the largest city in North Carolina and are beginning to feel the pressures of a neighboring community, brings to light a challenge that requires the development of the Lineberger Connector project. The Lineberger Connector project 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 **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 Exit 21 (Cox Road) and Exit 22 (S. Main Street) east and west, and NC 7 and Franklin Boulevard north and south. The project also provides for a second, grade separated crossing between Exits 21 and 22 over I-85.

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 an **economic engine** for the region.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



Todd Pierceall, Board Chair
Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln MPO



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

JAMES H. TROGDON, III
SECRETARY

October 16, 2017

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, TIGER IX 2017 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 2017 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER IX) program to fund improvements to the Lineberger Connector in Gastonia and Lowell.

The City of Gastonia in conjunction with the City of Lowell are seeking TIGER Discretionary Grant funds to complete the Lineberger Connector between the two communities of more than 78,000 people. 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 Exit 21 (Cox Road) and Exit 22 (S. Main Street) east and west, and NC 7 and Franklin Boulevard north and south. The project also provides for a second, grade separated crossing between Exits 21 and 22 over I-85.

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 an economic engine for the region.

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

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Location:
1 SOUTH WILMINGTON STREET
RALEIGH, NC 27601

Website: www.ncdot.gov

Secretary Elaine L. Chao

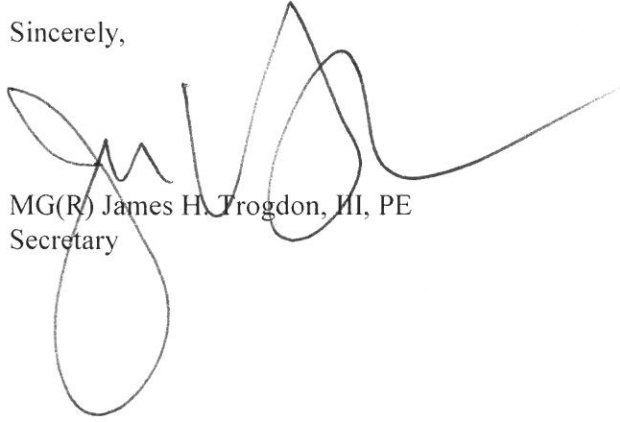
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Construction of the City of Gastonia and Lowell's Lineberger Connector will ultimately serve every facet of the Department's mission to "connect people and places in North Carolina - safely and efficiently, with accountability and environmental sensitivity."

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James H. Trogdon, III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

MG(R) James H. Trogdon, III, PE
Secretary

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT APPLICATION TO U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S 2017 TIGER DISCRETIONARY GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation's ("USDOT") TIGER Discretionary Grant Program ("TIGER") provides funding for capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure;

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 City of Gastonia and the City of Lowell seeks to apply for grant funding to construct the Lineberger Connector Project, which would provide connectivity from Franklin Boulevard north to I-85 thru new connector/distributor roads between Exit 21 and Exit 22, and would extend Lineberger Road north of I-85 to connect to NC Highway 7, and provide direct access to over 300 undeveloped acres and;

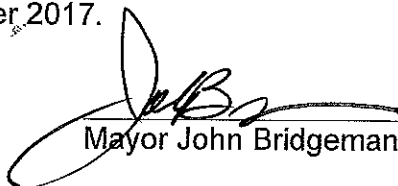
WHEREAS, traffic in the area surrounding the project is experiencing significant congestion and delay, with many intersections performing at a Level of Service F during peak periods and;

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;

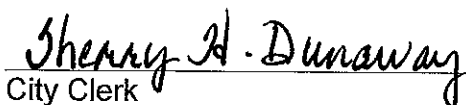
WHEREAS, *Franklin Boulevard Corridor Access and Alternative Development Mobility Strategy* showed that the Lineberger Connector Project would improve congestion and delay in the study area and accommodate new development, now;

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

Adopted this the 3rd day of October 2017.


Mayor John Bridgeman

ATTEST:


City Clerk



**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT APPLICATION TO U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION'S 2017 TIGER DISCRETIONARY GRANT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation's ("USDOT") TIGER Discretionary Grant Program ("TIGER") provides funding for capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure;

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 City of Gastonia and the City of Lowell seeks to apply for grant funding to construct the Lineberger Connector Project, which would provide connectivity from Franklin Boulevard north to I-85 thru new connector/distributor roads between Exit 21 and Exit 22, and would extend Lineberger Road north of I-85 to connect to NC Highway 7, and provide direct access to over 300 undeveloped acres 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;

WHEREAS, *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, now;

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

Adopted this the 9th day of October 2017.



Mayor Sandy Railey

ATTEST:



Beverly Harris, City Clerk