

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT APPLICATION TO U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION'S 2019 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, 4th day of June, 2019 upon a motion of Councilman T. Pierceall
and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kirlin by a vote of 4 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 4, 2019.

Sherry H. Dunaway
Sherry H. Dunaway
City Clerk

(seal)

6-4-2019
Date





RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT APPLICATION TO U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION'S 2019 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;

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;

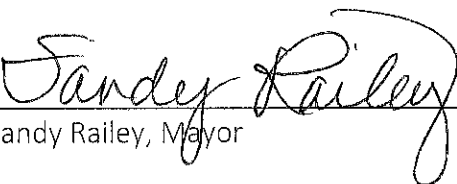
WHEREAS, the area in which the Lineberger Connector Project is located has been recommended by the NC Department of Commerce to be certified as an Opportunity Zone, which could bring a much-needed infusion of investment dollars for economic development into the most distressed rural and urban areas of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

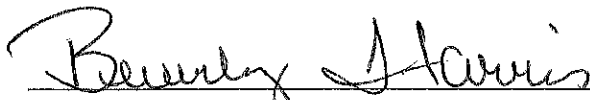
WHEREAS, the project will exemplify a strong public-private partnership involving multiple partners in both the public and private sectors, including collaboration among neighboring jurisdictions to achieve both local and regional benefits, now;

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.

Adopted this the 11th day of June 2019.


Sandy Railey, Mayor

ATTEST:


Beverly Harris, City Clerk





RESOLUTION TITLE: RESOLUTION TO ENDORSE APPLICATION TO U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S 2019 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, 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,

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	CBrown	JBrown	AFraley	BHovis	TKeigher	TPhilbeck	RWorley	Vote
2019-170	06/25/2019	TK	AF	AB	A	A	A	A	AB	A	U

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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 25th day of June, 2019.

GASTON COUNTY



ATTEST


Donna S. Buff
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners


Tracy L. Philbeck
Chairman of the Board



June 27, 2019

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

RE: LINEBERGER CONNECTOR 2019 BUILD GRANT

The Honorable Elaine Chao:

The Gaston County Economic Development Commission fully supports for the Lineberger Connector 2019 BUILD Grant application. Our organization has participated in the preparation of previous grant submittals. The Cities of Gastonia and Lowell, NC in partnership with Gaston County, NC, are seeking \$18.5 million in BUILD funds to match 50/50 the \$18.5 million in mostly private matching funds with local dollars completing the package.

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, connected by I-85, these communities have a new opportunity to move closer to the previous textile-based, vibrant economy that employed 19,000 people and a quality of life they deserve. The Lineberger Connector is the construction of new bridge that opens up access to more than 450 acres of infill property with superior access to the I-85 corridor. Completely located in a certified Opportunity Zone, the Connector project will create an estimated 18,600 new jobs and \$56.53 million new revenue, with an overall economic impact of more than \$100 million. However, time is of the essence. In order to coordinate the Connector with NCDOT's widening of I-85, the project needs the federal grant assistance commitment in this round. This not only allows NCDOT to handle implementation of the federal funding, but also saves money, is less disruptive for residents and reduces the congestion time that would be caused by breaking up the area a second time later to build the Connector after the I-85 improvements are done. The project is located in an infill area and can benefit from previous infrastructure investment located nearby.

This project is a critical component to continuing the rebuilding of our economy. I appreciate your serious consideration of the application and my support for it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Donny Hicks'.

Donny Hicks
Executive Director

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

Transportation Planning

May 23, 2019

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

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

RE: LINEBERGER CONNECTOR 2019 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 2019 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 1-85 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 1-85 connecting both sides of 1-85 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, reading "S. Neisler".

Scott Neisler, Chair
GCLMPO Board



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

JAMES H. TROGDON, III
SECRETARY

July 8, 2019

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 2019 Application

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the North Carolina Department of Transportation, I am writing with our strong support for the Lineberger Connector 2019 BUILD Grant application. The Cities of Gastonia and Lowell, NC in partnership with Gaston County, NC, are seeking \$18.5 million in BUILD funds to match 50/50 the \$18.5 million in mostly private matching funds with local dollars completing the package.

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, connected by I-85, these communities have a new opportunity to move closer to the previous textile-based, vibrant economy that employed 19,000 people and a quality of life they deserve. The Lineberger Connector is the construction of new bridge that will provide access to more than 450 acres of infill property with superior access to the I-85 corridor. Completely located in a certified Opportunity Zone, the Connector project will create an estimated 18,600 new jobs and \$56.53 million new revenue, with an overall economic impact of more than \$100 million. However, time is of the essence. In order to coordinate the Connector with NCDOT's widening of I-85, the project needs the federal grant assistance commitment in this round. This not only allows NCDOT to handle implementation of the federal funding, but also saves money, is less disruptive for residents and reduces the congestion time that would be caused by breaking up the area a second time later to build the Connector after the I-85 improvements are done.

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

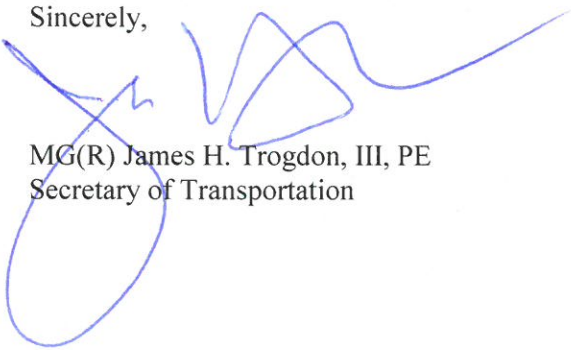
July 8, 2019

Page 2

There are numerous other local and regional benefits in fiber optics, multimodal mobility, and more that this project accomplishes. I appreciate your serious consideration of the application and my support for it.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James H. Trogon, III, PE". The signature is stylized with a large, loopy initial "J" and a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

MG(R) James H. Trogon, III, PE
Secretary of Transportation



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

June 7, 2019

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

RE: Lineberger Connector 2019 BUILD Grant

Dear Secretary Chao:

Please accept this letter of support for the Lineberger Connector project 2019 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
Senate

August 12, 2019

SENATOR TED ALEXANDER
44TH DISTRICT

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

RE: Lineberger Connector 2019 Build Grant

The Honorable Elaine Chao:

I am writing to submit my support for the Lineberger Connector 2019 BUILD Grant application. The Cities of Gastonia and Lowell, NC in partnership with Gaston County, NC, are seeking \$18.5 million in BUILD funds to match 50/50 the \$18.5 million in mostly private matching funds with local dollars completing the package.

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.

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There are numerous other local and regional benefits in fiber optics, multimodal mobility, and more that this project accomplishes. I appreciate your kind consideration of the application and my support for it.

Sincerely,

Senator W. Ted Alexander





North Carolina General Assembly House of Representatives

Representative John A. Torbett
108th District

COMMITTEES

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

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
Insurance
Redistricting
Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations

June 3, 2019

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

RE: LINEBERGER CONNECTOR 2019 BUILD GRANT

The Honorable Elaine Chao:

As Senior Chair of the North Carolina General Assembly Transportation Committee, and Chair of the North Carolina General Assembly Transportation Appropriations Committee and the House Select Committee on Strategic Transportation Planning and Long Term Funding Solutions, please accept this letter of support for the Lineberger Connector 2019 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 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 dark ink, reading "John A. Torbett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Representative John A. Torbett
House District 108
North Carolina General Assembly



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

June 26, 2019

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 2019 BUILD Grant

Dear Secretary Chao:

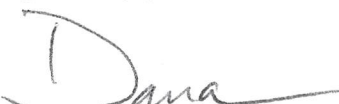
I am writing in support of the Lineberger Connector 2019 BUILD grant application.

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,


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) 669-0600

TOLL FREE IN NC
(800) 477-2576

June 24, 2019

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.

Sincerely,



Patrick McHenry
Member of Congress

July 8, 2019

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

RE: LINEBERGER CONNECTOR 2019 BUILD GRANT

The Honorable Elaine Chao:

On behalf of CaroMont Health, I am writing with our strong support for the Lineberger Connector 2019 BUILD Grant application. The **Cities of Gastonia and Lowell, NC** in partnership with **Gaston County, NC**, are seeking \$18.5 million in BUILD funds to match 50/50 the \$18.5 million in mostly private matching funds with local dollars completing the package.

As the largest private employer in Gaston County with over 4,000 employees, CaroMont Health is growing to serve our community. We are a non-profit healthcare system that consists of CaroMont Regional Medical Center – Gastonia, CaroMont Regional Medical Center – Mount Holly, multiple outpatient facilities, a ninety-six (96) bed skilled nursing facility, and more than forty-five (45) primary and specialty care clinics in the region. On May 17 2019, CaroMont Health announced our intent to build a second hospital in Gaston County. In addition, CaroMont Health will build a new critical care tower on our current campus at CaroMont Regional Medical Center – Gastonia. CaroMont Health is committing three hundred twenty-five (\$325,000,000) million dollars in capital investments to improve access to and the quality of healthcare services in Gaston County.

CaroMont Health is committing our investments to serve our communities. As part of CaroMont Health's commitment, we are developing partnerships with the public school system, Gaston College, and Belmont Abbey College to advance health sciences and healthcare services education. The Connector will support growth along the I-85 corridor that is vital to our communities. With this infrastructure investment, Gaston County will attract development of corporate and regional headquarters for health sciences, medical manufacturing, and medical supply distribution; create opportunities for advanced manufacturing; and, stimulate employment opportunities.

Adjacent to Charlotte, NC, connected by I-85, our communities have a new opportunity to move closer to a 21st century, technology-driven, vibrant economy. The Lineberger Connector is the construction of new bridge that opens up access to more than 450 acres of infill property with superior access to the I-85 corridor. Completely located in a certified Opportunity Zone, the Connector project will create an estimated 18,600 new jobs and \$56.53 million new revenue, with an overall economic impact of more than \$100 million.



However, time is of the essence. In order to coordinate the Connector with NCDOT's widening of I-85, the project needs the federal grant assistance commitment immediately. By building the Connector before the widening project begins, NCDOT can handle implementation of the federal funding, save money, and create less disruption for residents. Finally, building the connector before widening commences will reduce congestion caused by disrupting traffic a second time later to build the Connector after completion of the I-85 improvements.

The Lineberger Connector is an essential infrastructure improvement to support CaroMont Health's investment and our county's economic well-being. With this project, Gaston County can transform from a textile industry economy to a technology and healthcare services economy.

Thank you for your serious consideration of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Richard Blackburn
Vice President, Facility and Support Services
CaroMont Health

June 28, 2019



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

RE: LINEBERGER CONNECTOR 2019 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 2019 BUILD Grant application. The **Cities of Gastonia and Lowell, NC** in partnership with **Gaston County, NC**, are seeking \$18.5 million in BUILD funds to match 50/50 the \$18.5 million in mostly private matching funds with local dollars completing the package.

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, connected by I-85, these communities have a new opportunity to move closer to the previous textile-based, vibrant economy that employed 19,000 people and a quality of life they deserve. The Lineberger Connector is the construction of new bridge that opens up access to more than 450 acres of infill property with superior access to the I-85 corridor. Completely located in a certified Opportunity Zone, the Connector project will create an estimated 18,600 new jobs and \$56.53 million new revenue, with an overall economic impact of more than \$100 million. However, time is of the essence. In order to coordinate the Connector with NCDOT's widening of I-85, the project needs the federal grant assistance commitment in this round. This not only allows NCDOT to handle implementation of the federal funding, but also saves money, is less disruptive for residents and reduces the congestion time that would be caused by breaking up the area a second time later to build the Connector after the I-85 improvements are done.

There are numerous other local and regional benefits in fiber optics, multimodal mobility, and more that this project accomplishes. I appreciate your serious consideration of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven J. D'Avria', is written over a horizontal line.

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



PO Box 368, Belmont, NC 28012

www.MontcrossAreaChamber.com

704-825-5307; Fax 704-825-5550

July 12, 2019

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

RE: LINEBERGER CONNECTOR 2019 BUILD GRANT

The Honorable Elaine Chao:

On behalf of The Montcross Area Chamber of Commerce in Belmont, NC, I am writing with our strong support for the Lineberger Connector 2019 BUILD Grant application. The **Cities of Gastonia and Lowell, NC** in partnership with **Gaston County, NC**, are seeking \$18.5 million in BUILD funds to match 50/50 the \$18.5 million in mostly private matching funds with local dollars completing the package.

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, connected by I-85, these communities have a new opportunity to move closer to the previous textile-based, vibrant economy that employed 19,000 people and a quality of life they deserve. The Lineberger Connector is the construction of new bridge that opens up access to more than 450 acres of infill property with superior access to the I-85 corridor. Completely located in a certified Opportunity Zone, the Connector project will create an estimated 18,600 new jobs and \$56.53 million new revenue, with an overall economic impact of more than \$100 million. However, time is of the essence. In order to coordinate the Connector with NCDOT's widening of I-85, the project needs the federal grant assistance commitment in this round. This not only allows NCDOT to handle implementation of the federal funding, but also saves money, is less disruptive for residents and reduces the congestion time that would be caused by breaking up the area a second time later to build the Connector after the I-85 improvements are done.

There are numerous other local and regional benefits in fiber optics, multimodal mobility, and more that this project accomplishes. I appreciate your serious consideration of the application and my support for it.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Hall", with a stylized, cursive script.

Ted Hall, President
Montcross Area Chamber of Commerce



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

June 4, 2019

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

RE: LINEBERGER CONNECTOR 2019 BUILD GRANT

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Greater Gaston Development Corporation (GGDC) is very pleased to submit this letter of support for the Lineberger Connector 2019 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 objectives, and we respectfully request your approval of this 2019 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 separated connector will also unlock more than 450 acres of undeveloped property that has the size and location to support a development of true regional importance. 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, the 450 acre Lineberger tract with the Connector has the potential to catalyze a range of highly-desirable economic opportunities. In fact, CaroMont Health just announced its plans within the next five years to add a new wing with 50 critical care beds to its Regional Medical Center. 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.

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. These Opportunity Zones 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 not only this 450 acre tract but also 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', written in a cursive style.

Mark C. Cramer
Executive Director

July 11, 2019

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 400 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.

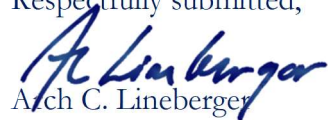
The Lineberger Connector will ameliorate these issues using all modes of transportation while respecting the history and amenities that give these communities their charm and unique personality. It will include a **bridge, bike path, pedestrian link, transit route, freight mobility option, network connector, 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. The Lineberger Connector will be a **transformational project** for the region with an overall economic impact of over \$100 million.

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

July 12, 2019

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

RE: LINEBERGER CONNECTOR 2019 BUILD GRANT

The Honorable Elaine Chao:

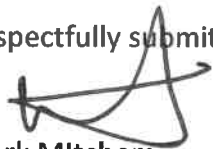
On behalf of the Mitchem family, who owns land adjoining the Lineberger property, I am writing with our strong support for the Lineberger Connector 2019 BUILD Grant application. The **Cities of Gastonia and Lowell, NC** in partnership with **Gaston County, NC**, are seeking \$18.5 million in BUILD funds to match 50/50 the \$18.5 million in mostly private matching funds with local dollars completing the package.

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, connected by I-85, these communities have a new opportunity to move closer to the previous textile-based, vibrant economy that employed 19,000 people and a quality of life they deserve. The Lineberger Connector is the construction of new bridge that opens up access to more than 450 acres of infill property with superior access to the I-85 corridor. Completely located in a certified Opportunity Zone, the Connector project will create an estimated 18,600 new jobs and \$56.53 million new revenue, with an overall economic impact of more than \$100 million. However, time is of the essence. In order to coordinate the Connector with NCDOT's widening of I-85, the project needs the federal grant assistance commitment in this round. This not only allows NCDOT to handle implementation of the federal funding, but also saves money, is less disruptive for residents and reduces the congestion time that would be caused by breaking up the area a second time later to build the Connector after the I-85 improvements are done.

There are numerous other local and regional benefits in fiber optics, multimodal mobility, and more that this project accomplishes. I appreciate your serious consideration of the application and my support for it.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Mltchem'. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping loop that extends upwards and to the right, and a smaller loop that crosses the main stroke.

Mark Mltchem

July 12, 2019

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

RE: LINEBERGER CONNECTOR 2019 BUILD GRANT

The Honorable Elaine Chao:

On behalf of the Mitchem family, who owns land adjoining the Lineberger property, I am writing with our strong support for the Lineberger Connector 2019 BUILD Grant application. The **Cities of Gastonia and Lowell, NC** in partnership with **Gaston County, NC**, are seeking \$18.5 million in BUILD funds to match 50/50 the \$18.5 million in mostly private matching funds with local dollars completing the package.

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.

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There are numerous other local and regional benefits in fiber optics, multimodal mobility, and more that this project accomplishes. I appreciate your serious consideration of the application and my support for it.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Mitchem". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font. The first letter of "Paul" is a large, looped capital 'P'. The last letter of "Mitchem" is a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Paul Mitchem



July 15, 2019

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

RE: LINEBERGER CONNECTOR 2019 BUILD GRANT

The Honorable Elaine Chao:

On behalf of Beacon Partners, I am writing with our strong support for the Lineberger Connector 2019 BUILD Grant application. The **Cities of Gastonia and Lowell, NC** in partnership with **Gaston County, NC**, are seeking \$18.5 million in BUILD funds to match 50/50 the \$18.5 million in mostly private matching funds with local dollars completing the package.

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 closed permanently with over 7,500 citizens losing 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.

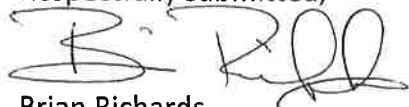
Adjacent to Charlotte, NC, connected by I-85, these communities have a new opportunity to move closer to the previous textile-based, vibrant economy that employed 19,000 people and a quality of life they deserve. The Lineberger Connector is the construction of a new bridge that opens up access to more than 450 acres of infill property with superior access to the I-85 corridor. Completely located in a certified Opportunity Zone, the Connector project has the potential to create an estimated 18,600 new jobs and over \$56 million new revenue, with an overall economic impact of more than \$100 million. We believe with better access and infrastructure the property will thrive with a mix of uses including civil, office, residential, industrial distribution and hospitality.

However, time is of the essence. In order to coordinate the Connector with NCDOT's widening of I-85, the project needs the federal grant assistance commitment in this round. This not only allows NCDOT to handle implementation of the federal funding, but also saves money, is less disruptive for residents

and reduces the congestion time that would be caused by breaking up the area a second time later to build the Connector after the I-85 improvements are done.

There are numerous other local and regional benefits in fiber optics, multimodal mobility, and more that this project accomplishes. I appreciate your serious consideration of the application and my support for it.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Richards', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brian Richards

Managing Director – Capital Markets

brian@beacondevelopment.com

704-926-1410

PEARSON PROPERTIES

703 South Marietta Street • Suite 200 • Gastonia, NC 28052
PHONE 704 / 867-5002 • FAX 704 / 867-0465

June 21, 2019

Mr. Michael C. Peoples

City Manager

City of Gastonia

P.O. Box 1748

Gastonia, NC 28053

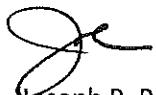
Re: 300 plus acres owned by Lineberger Family on north side of I-85, Gastonia, NC

Dear Mr. Peoples:

As you know, I am a local real estate developer with a 25 year history of developing in Gaston County. For many years I have been interested in the Lineberger family's land on the north side of I-85. I believe this property has great development potential, subject to proper access across I-85 and east/west connections to Main Street in Lowell and Court Drive to the west. I hope that the City will endorse a plan to fund and construct needed roads and bridges by the State to facilitate the development of this property. I think that there is great opportunity to develop a master planned project that incorporates, retail, office, single and multi-family housing.

Regards,

PEARSON PROPERTIES & ASSOCIATES



Joseph P. Pearson



1111 METROPOLITAN AVE, STE 700
CHARLOTTE, NC 28204
Mailing: P.O. BOX 36799
CHARLOTTE, NC 28236-6799
704.206.8300 | WWW.COLLETTRE.COM

June 24, 2019

Mr. Michael Peoples
City Manager, City of Gastonia
181 S. South Street
Gastonia, NC 28052

**RE: Lineberger Family Property
+/- 440 Acres Located Between I-85 and Hwy 7
Gastonia & Lowell, NC**

Dear Michael:

We appreciate all the time spent with my partners and me evaluating the development of the Lineberger Family property in Gaston County. After reviewing the property and the surrounding infrastructure, we whole heartedly believe the Lineberger site is ideal for a sizeable mixed-use, master planned development--to include retail, office, multi-family, industrial/distribution and sports-related uses/venues. Collett has developed approximately 20 million square feet of development projects throughout the southeast and southwest over the last 30 years. We are very interested in joining forces with the Lineberger family to bring a master planned commercial, industrial, residential and sports related project to Gaston County.

There are several obvious development challenges which, in our opinion, have precluded this site from development to date. Specifically; the site, for as large as it is, completely lacks the necessary infrastructure to support such a large scale development. Per the attached concept plan which accompanies the BUILD application, this property can't be successfully developed without a substantial road network in place to serve the many different end-users which are currently interested. Most importantly, connection will need to be made to Aberdeen to the west and Kenworthy to the east and the flyover connecting Lineberger Road and Franklin Blvd. Once the infrastructure is installed, we are prepared to invest significant capital to develop all or a portion of the overall site in conjunction with the family.

NCDOT, The City of Gastonia, the Town of Lowell and the State of North Carolina are all potential stake holders which will benefit from a successful development of this property. We are excited about partnering with the Lineberger Family and the aforementioned groups to create a fully integrated mixed use development in the heart of Gaston County that creates 1,000's of jobs and significantly increases the tax base.

Please let us know how we can help and what next steps can be taken to continue to explore such an exciting enterprise.

Sincerely,

John Collett
Chairman

Enclosures



P. O. Box 24
Lowell, NC 28098
September 10, 2019

Mr. Michael Peoples
City Manager
181 South Street
Gastonia, NC

Subject: Lineberger and Other Prospects +/- 400 Acres Between I-85 and Highway 7,
Gastonia and Lowell, NC

Dear Mr. Peoples:

Gastonia, Lowell and Gaston County will benefit with proper development of the subject land. As a property owner on the eastern access for this project, I strongly support your efforts with state, local and federal agencies to create the best use and connectivity with subject land.

Opportunity is knocking....let's help it arrive in both cities and the county.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Edward Jackson", written in a cursive style.

H. Edward Jackson