

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT APPLICATION TO U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION'S 2021 REBUILDING AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE WITH  
SUSTAINABILITY AND EQUITY (RAISE) GRANT PROGRAM**

**Whereas** the U.S. Department of Transportation's ("USDOT") Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity ("RAISE") 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;

**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;

**Whereas** the cities of Gastonia and Lowell are actively working with NorthPoint Development for the development of Gateway85;

**Whereas** the proposed development will include over 3,560,000 s.f. of warehouse and wholesale sales, distribution, and storage operations;

**Whereas** upon full buildout, NorthPoint Development is estimating over 2,500 new jobs;

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

**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;

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

**Whereas** the Lineberger Connector Project is located within an Area of Persistent Poverty, and will bring a much-needed infusion of investment dollars for economic development into the area, helping to advance equity for all; 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, 15th day of June, 2021 upon a motion of DAVE KIRLIN and seconded by Charles Odom by a vote of 6 affirmative votes to 0 negative votes.

Walker E. Reid III  
Walker E. Reid, III, Mayor

ATTEST:

Suzanne Gibbs  
Suzanne Gibbs, 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 as a legally convened meeting of the City of Gastonia held on the 15th day of June, 2021.

Suzanne Gibbs  
Suzanne Gibbs  
City Clerk

(seal)

6/15/2021  
Date





## **RESOLUTION #RS8-2021**

### **RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT APPLICATION TO U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S 2021 REBUILDING AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE WITH SUSTAINABILITY AND EQUITY (RAISE) GRANT PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Transportation's ("USDOT") Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity ("RAISE") 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;

**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;

**WHEREAS**, the cities of Gastonia and Lowell are actively working with NorthPoint Development for the development of Gateway85;

**WHEREAS**, the proposed development will include over 3,560,000 s.f. of warehouse and wholesale sales, distribution, and storage operations;

**WHEREAS**, upon full buildout, NorthPoint Development is estimating over 2,500 new jobs;

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

**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;

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

**WHEREAS**, the Lineberger Connector Project is located is within an Area of Persistent Poverty, and will bring a much-needed infusion of investment dollars for economic development into the area, helping to advance equity for all; and

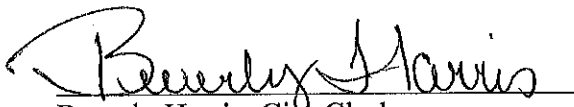
**WHEREAS**, the project will exemplify a strong public-private partnership involving multiple partners in both the public and private sectors, including collaboration among neighboring jurisdictions to achieve both local and regional benefits;

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

Resolution adopted this the, 8th day of June, 2021 upon a motion of Councilmember Ervin and seconded by Councilmember Gillespie by a vote of 4 affirmative votes to 0 negative votes.

  
Sandy Railey, Mayor

ATTEST

  
Beverly Harris, City Clerk





**RESOLUTION TITLE: RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT APPLICATION TO U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S 2021 REBUILDING AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE WITH SUSTAINABILITY AND EQUITY (RAISE) GRANT PROGRAM**

- WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation's ("USDOT") Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity ("RAISE") 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 are actively working with NorthPoint Development for the development of Gateway85; and,
- WHEREAS, the proposed development will include over 3,560,000 s.f. of warehouse and wholesale sales, distribution, and storage operations; and,
- WHEREAS, upon full buildout, NorthPoint Development is estimating over 2,500 new jobs; and,
- WHEREAS, the majority of the property currently has only one access point via Lineberger Road, which is a substandard two-lane facility with a skewed, 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 will produce significant economic development and job creation along Interstate 85; and,
- WHEREAS, the Lineberger Connector Project is located within an Area of Persistent Poverty, and will bring a much-needed infusion of investment dollars for economic development into the area, helping to advance equity for all; 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	AFrale	BHovis	KJohnson	TKeigher	TPhilbeck	RWorley	Vote
2021-186	06/22/2021	TP	KJ	A	A	A	A	AB	A	A	U

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RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT APPLICATION TO U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S 2021 REBUILDING AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE WITH SUSTAINABILITY AND EQUITY (RAISE) GRANT PROGRAM

Page 2

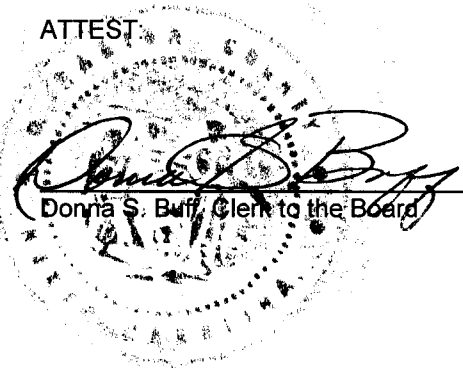
WHEREAS, the project will exemplify a strong public-private partnership involving multiple partners in both the public and private sectors, including collaboration among neighboring jurisdictions to achieve both local and regional benefits.

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

Adopted this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of June, 2021.

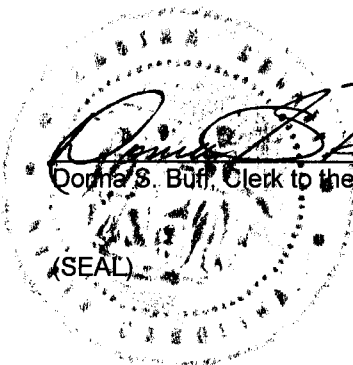
  
Tom Keigher, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the Board

Certificate

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 June 22, 2021.

  
Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the Board      Date 6/22/2021  
(SEAL)



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER  
GOVERNOR

J. ERIC BOYETTE  
SECRETARY

July 8, 2021

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

**RE: Lineberger Connector Project 2021 RAISE Grant**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the North Carolina Department of Transportation, I am writing with our strong support for the **Lineberger Connector Project 2021 RAISE 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 in textiles and manufacturing. 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 did not have a job, \$70 million was lost in water/sewer revenue alone. 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.

The Lineberger Connector Project area remains one of the largest undeveloped properties along the I-85 corridor west of Charlotte, until now. The extension road will open up access to close to 400 acres of infill property with superior access to the I-85 corridor. Located within an **Area of Persistent Poverty**, the Lineberger Connector Project will create an estimated **2,500 new jobs** with a total **annual wage of \$103,820,000**, helping to advance **equity for all**. In late 2020, NorthPoint Development purchased more than 300 acres of the Lineberger property for **Gateway85**. The development will include over **3,560,000 square feet of warehouse and wholesale sales, distribution, and storage operations**.

Safety is also a key component of the project. The majority of the property currently has only one access point via Lineberger Road, which is a substandard two-lane facility with a skewed, 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.

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

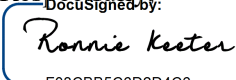
*Telephone:* (919) 707-2800  
*Fax:* (919) 733-9150  
*Customer Service:* 1-877-368-4968

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

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

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
RE: Lineberger Connector Project 2021 RAISE Grant  
July 8, 2021  
Page 2

The **Lineberger Connector Project** is a significant piece of infrastructure for the communities of Gastonia and Lowell and **RAISE funding is critical** to advance and construct this project. I appreciate your serious consideration of the City's application and your support for it.

Respectfully,  
DocuSigned by:  
  
F08GBB5C6D2D4C6...  
Ronald L. Keeter, Jr  
Chief Engineer



July 7, 2021

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

**RE: LINEBERGER CONNECTOR PROJECT 2021 RAISE GRANT**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Northpoint Development, I am writing with our strong support for the **Lineberger Connector Project 2021 RAISE** Grant application, being submitted by the City of Gastonia in partnership with the City of Lowell and Gaston County. **As the developer, we are committed to providing matching funds in ROW dedication and stormwater management and detention/retention facilities.**

Transportation, and more importantly access and land use, are the main engines that drive property development. Currently, the majority of this ~400-acre property can only be accessed from the north via Lineberger Road and this access has challenges due to an existing, dangerously skewed at-grade crossing of the Norfolk Southern Railroad Main Line. In addition, I-85 along the southern border of the property serves as a significant barrier, restricting connectivity and economic opportunity.

Situated just north of I-85 in Gaston County, the project area had long remained one of the largest undeveloped properties along the I-85 corridor west of Charlotte; however, this was not from a lack of planning efforts. In fact, several master plans had been developed over the years, depicting a variety of land uses for the property. Within each master plan, access and connectivity had always been left for future consideration.

In December 2020, NorthPoint Development purchased 365 acres for **Gateway85**. With an infrastructure plan now in place, all that is needed is infrastructure funding to enable NorthPoint Development to develop the property into one of the region's largest industrial parks. The development will include over 3,560,000 sq. ft. of manufacturing, distribution center, industrial, and warehousing facilities. With the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 highlighting just how critical our nation's supply chain is, the proposed development will provide modern warehouse space that will support growth and development for several sectors including e-commerce, manufacturing, reshoring companies and anticipated changes in the supply chain.

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

The majority of the property currently has only one access point via Lineberger Road, which is a substandard two-lane facility with a skewed, 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, with major improvements to the intersection of Aberdeen Boulevard and Cox Road.**

An economic impact study has been completed for the proposed development which estimates a total of 10,181 permanent new jobs (direct & indirect) with a total annual compensation of \$462,545,507. This will increase the total number of jobs in Gaston County more than 10%.

Phase one of the industrial park is currently under construction and includes two buildings totaling 900,000 square feet. Request for Proposals (RFPs) are currently out, and we are in the process of coming to final terms for the first two buildings.

I appreciate your serious consideration of the **Lineberger Connector Project** application and your support for it.

Respectfully submitted,



Nathaniel Hagedorn  
Manager, Northpoint Development, LLC



North Carolina General Assembly  
Senate

SENATOR KATHY HARRINGTON  
43RD DISTRICT

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

COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS/BASE BUDGET, CHAIR  
PENSIONS AND RETIREMENT AND AGING, CHAIR  
FINANCE  
JUDICIARY  
REDISTRICTING AND ELECTIONS  
RULES AND OPERATIONS OF THE SENATE  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON PRISON SAFETY  
TRANSPORTATION

July 1, 2021

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

**RE: LINEBERGER CONNECTOR PROJECT 2021 RAISE GRANT**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing with my strong support for the **Lineberger Connector Project** 2021 RAISE 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 in textiles and manufacturing. 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. 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.

The Lineberger Connector Project area remains one of the largest undeveloped properties along the I-85 corridor west of Charlotte, until now. The extension road will open up access to close to 400 acres of infill property with superior access to the I-85 corridor. Located within an Area of Persistent Poverty, the Lineberger Connector Project will create an estimated 2,500 new jobs with a total annual wage of \$103,820,000, helping to advance equity for all. In late 2020, NorthPoint Development purchased more than 300 acres of the Lineberger property for Gateway85. The development will include over 3,560,000 s.f. of warehouse and wholesale sales, distribution, and storage operations.

Safety is also a key component of the project. The majority of the property currently has only one access point via Lineberger Road, which is a substandard two-lane facility with a skewed, at-grade crossing of



The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
July 1, 2021

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.

The **Lineberger Connector Project** is a significant piece of infrastructure for the communities of Gastonia and Lowell and RAISE funding is critical to advance and construct this project. I appreciate your serious consideration of the City's application and your support for it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathy Harrington". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Senator Kathy Harrington



## North Carolina General Assembly House of Representatives

Representative John A. Torbett  
108<sup>th</sup> 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.gov](mailto:john.torbett@ncleg.gov)

District: 210 Blue Ridge Drive  
Stanley, NC 28164

Phone: (704) 263-9282

Chairman, Appropriations Education

Chairman, Education K-12

Chairman, State Government

Vice-Chairman, Appropriations

Vice-Chairman, Redistricting

Vice-Chairman, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

UNC BOG Nominations

June 18, 2021

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

### RE: LINEBERGER CONNECTOR PROJECT 2021 RAISE GRANT

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing with our strong support for the **Lineberger Connector Project 2021 RAISE** 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. 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 Project is the extension of Aberdeen Boulevard from Cox Road to the east that will open up access to close to 400 acres of infill property with superior access to the I-85 corridor, with major improvements to the intersection of Aberdeen Boulevard and Cox Road. Located within an **Area of Persistent Poverty**, the Lineberger Connector Project will create an estimated **2,500 new jobs** with a total **annual wage of \$103,820,000**, helping to advance **equity for all**. In late 2020, NorthPoint Development purchased more than 300 acres of the Lineberger property for **Gateway85**. The development will include over **3,560,000 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 **RAISE funding is critical** to advance and construct this project. The majority of the property currently has only one access point via Lineberger Road, which is a substandard two-lane facility with a skewed, 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.

The residents of this area are hardworking and deserving of opportunities to better their lives and the lives of their children, and the Lineberger Connector Project helps provide those opportunities. I appreciate your serious consideration of the **Lineberger Connector Project** application and your support for it.

Respectfully submitted,



Representative John Torbett  
108<sup>th</sup> District Representative  
North Carolina General Assembly



North Carolina General Assembly  
House Of Representatives

REPRESENTATIVE DANA BUMGARDNER  
109TH DISTRICT

OFFICE: 304 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
300 N. SALISBURY STREET  
RALEIGH, NC 27603-5925

PHONE: 919.733.5809

FAX: 919.754.3162

EMAIL: dana.bumgardner@ncleg.gov

June 22, 2021

COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS: CHAIR  
APPROPRIATIONS ON TRANSPORTATION: VICE-CHAIR  
INSURANCE, VICE-CHAIR  
RULES, CALENDAR AND OPERATIONS OF THE HOUSE  
TRANSPORTATION  
HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
PLANNING AND LONG-TERM FUNDING SOLUTIONS

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

RE: Lineberger Connector Project 2021 RAISE Grant

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to support the Cities of Gastonia and Lowell in partnership with Gaston County, North Carolina, as they seek RAISE Transportation Discretionary Grant funds to complete the funding package necessary to implement the Lineberger Connector Project between the two cities.

This project will be 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 largest industries. Over 7,500 citizens lost their jobs. By 2002, there were numerous additional plant closings, and an estimated 13,000 people who wanted to work but didn't have jobs.

Adjacent to Charlotte and connected by I-85, these communities will have a new opportunity to regain the previous vibrant economy and the quality of life once provided by the textile industry. This public-private partnership will achieve both local and regional benefits, and I highly recommend the Lineberger Connector project to you.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this application.

Respectfully yours,

  
Dana Bumgardner







North Carolina General Assembly  
House Of Representatives

REPRESENTATIVE KELLY E. 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.gov

COMMITTEES:

CHAIRMAN: APPROPRIATIONS, CAPITAL  
CHAIRMAN: UNC BOARD OF GOVERNORS NOMINATIONS  
VICE CHAIRMAN: APPROPRIATIONS  
VICE CHAIRMAN: EDUCATION, UNIVERSITIES  
VICE CHAIRMANS: RULES, CALENDAR, AND OPERATIONS  
OF THE HOUSE  
ENERGY AND PUBLIC UTILITIES  
FEDERAL RELATIONS AND AMERICAN INDIAN AFFAIRS  
REDISTRICTING

June 18, 2021

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

**RE: LINEBERGER CONNECTOR PROJECT 2021 RAISE GRANT**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing with our strong support for the **Lineberger Connector Project 2021 RAISE 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. 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.



The Lineberger Connector Project is the extension of Aberdeen Boulevard from Cox Road to the east that will open up access to close to 400 acres of infill property with superior access to the I-85 corridor, with major improvements to the intersection of Aberdeen Boulevard and Cox Road. Located within an **Area of Persistent Poverty**, the Lineberger Connector Project will create an estimated **2,500 new jobs** with a total **annual wage of \$103,820,000**, helping to advance **equity for all**. In late 2020, NorthPoint Development purchased more than 300 acres of the Lineberger property for **Gateway85**. The development will include over **3,560,000 square feet 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 **RAISE funding is critical** to advance and construct this project.

The majority of the property currently has only one access point via Lineberger Road, which is a substandard two-lane facility with a skewed, 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.

The residents of this area are hardworking and deserving of opportunities to better their lives and the lives of their children, and the Lineberger Connector Project helps provide those opportunities. I appreciate your serious consideration of the **Lineberger Connector Project** application and your support for it.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelly E. Hastings".

Rep. Kelly Hastings

## GASTON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Gaston County  
Board of Commissioners  
[www.gastongov.com](http://www.gastongov.com)



**Tom Keigher**  
Chairman  
Gastonia Township

**Allen R. Fraley**  
Vice-Chairman  
Cherryville Township

**Chad Brown**  
Riverbend Township

**Bob Hovis**  
Crowders Mtn. Township

**Kim Johnson**  
Gastonia Township

**Tracy L. Philbeck**  
Dallas Township

**Ronnie Worley**  
South Point Township

**Dr. Kim S. Eagle**  
County Manager

**Jonathan L. Sink**  
County Attorney

**Donna S. Buff**  
Clerk to the Board

*"Providing excellent  
public service  
every day."*

October 1, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to you to express my absolute support of the Lineberger Connector RAISE 2021 Grant that your department will review. My name is Tom Keigher and I am currently the chairman of the Gaston County Board of Commissioners; I have been on the board for approximately 20 years.

The City of Gastonia, in conjunction with the City of Lowell and Gaston County, seek \$18,192,385 (58%) in RAISE Discretionary Grant funds to complete the \$31,318,535 package needed to complete the Lineberger Connector Project between the two communities. The City of Gastonia has committed a combination of matching funds from both local and private sources in the amount of \$13,126,150 (42%).

The project is located completely within a federally designated Opportunity Zone and an Area of Persistent Poverty. The development of this area will provide opportunities for upward mobility through proximity to well-paying jobs. This grant would provide connectivity to over 400 acres of a master planned distribution hub which will afford career opportunities for displaced, marginalized and low income residents. Residents in this geographical area are still feeling the negative impact of the massive 10,000 job loss of the textile industry in the 1990's. Obtaining this grant sets the stage for making our workforce more diverse and inclusive.

I support this without reservation and ask that you and your team vote in favor of Gaston County. Gaston County is uniquely positioned to maximize this grant to its fullest extent and further improve the infrastructure of our community. Thanking you in advance for your consideration.

Regards,

Tom Keigher, Chairman  
Gaston County Board of Commissioners



May 27, 2021

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

**RE: LINEBERGER CONNECTOR PROJECT 2021 RAISE GRANT**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln MPO, I am writing with our strong support for the **Lineberger Connector Project 2021 RAISE** 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. 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.

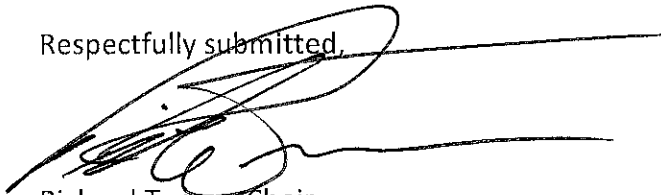
The Lineberger Connector Project is the extension of Aberdeen Boulevard from Cox Road to the east that will open up access to close to 400 acres of infill property with superior access to the I-85 corridor, with major improvements to the intersection of Aberdeen Boulevard and Cox Road. Located within an **Area of Persistent Poverty**, the Lineberger Connector Project will create an estimated **2,500 new jobs** with a total **annual wage of \$103,820,000**, helping to advance **equity for all**. In late 2020, NorthPoint Development purchased more than 300 acres of the Lineberger property for **Gateway85**. The development will include over **3,560,000 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 **RAISE funding is critical** to advance and construct this project. The majority of the property currently has only one access point via Lineberger Road, which is a substandard two-lane facility with a skewed, 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.

The residents of this area are hardworking and deserving of opportunities to better their lives and the lives of their children, and the Lineberger Connector Project helps provide those opportunities. I appreciate your serious consideration of the **Lineberger Connector Project** application and your support for it.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Turner', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

Richard Turner, Chair  
Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln MPO

July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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

**RE: LINEBERGER CONNECTOR PROJECT 2021 RAISE GRANT**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Gaston County Economic Development Commission, I am writing with our strong support for the **Lineberger Connector Project 2021 RAISE** 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 in textiles and manufacturing. 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. 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.

The Lineberger Connector Project area remains one of the largest undeveloped properties along the I-85 corridor west of Charlotte, until now. The extension road will open up access to close to 400 acres of infill property with superior access to the I-85 corridor. Located within an **Area of Persistent Poverty**, the Lineberger Connector Project will create an estimated **2,500 new jobs** with a total **annual wage of \$103,820,000**, helping to advance **equity for all**. In late 2020, NorthPoint Development purchased more than 300 acres of the Lineberger property for **Gateway85**. The development will include over **3,560,000 s.f. of warehouse and wholesale sales, distribution, and storage operations**.

Safety is also a key component of the project. The majority of the property currently has only one access point via Lineberger Road, which is a substandard two-lane facility with a skewed, 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.

The **Lineberger Connector Project** is a significant piece of infrastructure for the communities of Gastonia and Lowell and **RAISE funding is critical** to advance and construct this project. I appreciate your serious consideration of the City's application and your support for it.

Respectfully,

  
Robert Browne, Gaston County Economic Development Board - Chairman





July 1, 2021

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

**RE: LINEBERGER CONNECTOR PROJECT 2021 RAISE GRANT**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Gaston Business Association, a Carolinas Chamber of Commerce accredited organization supporting businesses throughout Gaston County, I am writing to express our strong support for the **Lineberger Connector Project 2021 RAISE** Grant application, being submitted by the **City of Gastonia** in partnership with the **City of Lowell** and **Gaston County**.

This project is a vital component of our community's prolonged economic recovery efforts following devastating NAFTA-related downturns in our local economy. Within five years after NAFTA, more than 50 plants had closed permanently, including our seven (7) largest industries and over 7,500 citizens lost their jobs. By 2002, there were additional plant closings, and an estimated 13,000 people eagerly sought employment to no avail. More than \$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 and its impact on our small and rural communities and its residents 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 era 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 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**.

In late 2020, NorthPoint Development purchased more than 300 acres of the Lineberger property for **Gateway85**. The development includes over **3,560,000 s.f. of warehouse and wholesale sales, distribution, and storage operations**. The Lineberger Connector project and **BUILD funding is critical** to enhancing the success of this development and a significant piece of infrastructure for the communities of Gastonia and Lowell.

Lineberger Connector Project  
Page two

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 safety, reliability, and efficiency.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patrick T. Mumford". The signature is stylized, with the first name "Patrick" and last name "Mumford" clearly legible, and the middle initial "T." in between.

Patrick T. Mumford  
President & CEO



June 23, 2021

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

**RE: LINEBERGER CONNECTOR PROJECT 2021 RAISE GRANT**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Montcross Area Chamber of Commerce, I am writing with our strong support for the **Lineberger Connector Project** 2021 RAISE 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 in textiles and manufacturing. 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. 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.

The Lineberger Connector Project area remains one of the largest undeveloped properties along the I-85 corridor west of Charlotte, until now. The extension road will open up access to close to 400 acres of infill property with superior access to the I-85 corridor. Located within an **Area of Persistent Poverty**, the Lineberger Connector Project will create an estimated **2,500 new jobs** with a total **annual wage of \$103,820,000**, helping to advance **equity for all**. In late 2020, NorthPoint Development purchased more than 300 acres of the Lineberger property for **Gateway85**. The development will include over **3,560,000 s.f. of warehouse and wholesale sales, distribution, and storage operations**.

Safety is also a key component of the project. The majority of the property currently has only one access point via Lineberger Road, which is a substandard two-lane facility with a skewed, 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.

The **Lineberger Connector Project** is a significant piece of infrastructure for the communities of Gastonia and Lowell and **RAISE funding is critical** to advance and construct this project. I appreciate your serious consideration of the City's application and your support for it.

Respectfully,

*Marc Jordan*

R. Marc Jordan, Sr. IOM, CCE  
President/CEO  
Montcross Area Chamber of Commerce

June 25, 2021

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

**RE: LINEBERGER CONNECTOR PROJECT 2021 RAISE GRANT**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Charlotte Regional Business Alliance, I am writing with our strong support for the **Lineberger Connector Project 2021 RAISE** 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 in textiles and manufacturing. 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. 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.

The Lineberger Connector Project area remains one of the largest undeveloped properties along the I-85 corridor west of Charlotte, until now. The extension road will open up access to close to 400 acres of infill property with superior access to the I-85 corridor. Located within an **Area of Persistent Poverty**, the Lineberger Connector Project will create an estimated **2,500 new jobs** with a total **annual wage of \$103,820,000**, helping to advance **equity for all**. In late 2020, NorthPoint Development purchased more than 300 acres of the Lineberger property for **Gateway85**. The development will include over **3,560,000 s.f. of warehouse and wholesale sales, distribution, and storage operations**.

Safety is also a key component of the project. The majority of the property currently has only one access point via Lineberger Road, which is a substandard two-lane facility with a skewed, 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.

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
June 25, 2021  
Page 2

The **Lineberger Connector Project** is a significant piece of infrastructure for the communities of Gastonia and Lowell and **RAISE funding is critical** to advance and construct this project. I appreciate your serious consideration of the City's application and your support for it.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Janet LaBar', with a large loop and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Janet LaBar  
President & CEO



June 24, 2021

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

**RE: LINEBERGER CONNECTOR PROJECT 2021 RAISE GRANT**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Centralina Regional Council, I am writing with our strong support for the **Lineberger Connector Project** 2021 RAISE 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. 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 Project is the extension of Aberdeen Boulevard from Cox Road to the east that will open up access to close to 400 acres of infill property with superior access to the I-85 corridor, with major improvements to the intersection of Aberdeen Boulevard and Cox Road.



704-372-2416 | [info@centralina.org](mailto:info@centralina.org) | [www.centralina.org](http://www.centralina.org)  
9815 David Taylor Drive, Suite 100 | Charlotte, NC 28262

Located within an **Area of Persistent Poverty**, the Lineberger Connector Project will create an estimated **2,500 new jobs** with a total **annual wage of \$103,820,000**, helping to advance **equity for all**. In late 2020, NorthPoint Development purchased more than 300 acres of the Lineberger property for **Gateway85**. The development will include over **3,560,000 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 **RAISE funding is critical** to advance and construct this project.

The majority of the property currently has only one access point via Lineberger Road, which is a substandard two-lane facility with a skewed, 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.

The residents of this area are hardworking and deserving of opportunities to better their lives and the lives of their children, and the Lineberger Connector Project helps provide those opportunities. I appreciate your serious consideration of the **Lineberger Connector Project** application and your support for it.

Respectfully submitted,



Geraldine Gardner  
Executive Director

July 1, 2021

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

**RE: LINEBERGER CONNECTOR PROJECT 2021 RAISE GRANT**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of CaroMont Health, I am writing with our strong support for the **Lineberger Connector Project 2021 RAISE** 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 in textiles and manufacturing. 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. 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.

The Lineberger Connector Project area remains one of the largest undeveloped properties along the I-85 corridor west of Charlotte, until now. The extension road will open up access to close to 400 acres of infill property with superior access to the I-85 corridor. Located within an **Area of Persistent Poverty**, the Lineberger Connector Project will create an estimated **2,500 new jobs** with a total **annual wage of \$103,820,000**, helping to advance **equity for all**. In late 2020, NorthPoint Development purchased more than 300 acres of the Lineberger property for **Gateway85**. The development will include over **3,560,000 s.f. of warehouse and wholesale sales, distribution, and storage operations**.

Safety is also a key component of the project. The majority of the property currently has only one access point via Lineberger Road, which is a substandard two-lane facility with a skewed, 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.

The **Lineberger Connector Project** is a significant piece of infrastructure for the communities of Gastonia and Lowell and **RAISE funding is critical** to advance and construct this project. I appreciate your serious consideration of the City's application and your support for it.

Respectfully,



Chris Peek,  
President/CEO





June 21, 2021

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

**RE: LINEBERGER CONNECTOR PROJECT 2021 RAISE GRANT**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Electricities of North Carolina, Inc., I am writing with our strong support for the **Lineberger Connector Project** 2021 RAISE 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. 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.



Secretary Buttigieg  
June 21, 2021  
Page 2

The Lineberger Connector Project is the extension of Aberdeen Boulevard from Cox Road to the east that will open up access to close to 400 acres of infill property with superior access to the I-85 corridor, with major improvements to the intersection of Aberdeen Boulevard and Cox Road. Located within an **Area of Persistent Poverty**, the Lineberger Connector Project will create an estimated **2,500 new jobs** with a total **annual wage of \$103,820,000**, helping to advance **equity for all**. In late 2020, NorthPoint Development purchased more than 300 acres of the Lineberger property for **Gateway85**. The development will include over **3,560,000 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 **RAISE funding is critical** to advance and construct this project. The majority of the property currently has only one access point via Lineberger Road, which is a substandard two-lane facility with a skewed, 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.

The residents of this area are hardworking and deserving of opportunities to better their lives and the lives of their children, and the Lineberger Connector Project helps provide those opportunities. I appreciate your serious consideration of the **Lineberger Connector Project** application and your support for it.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roy Jones', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Roy Jones, CEO  
ElectriCities of North Carolina, Inc.



June 30, 2021

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

RE: LINEBERGER CONNECTOR PROJECT 2021 RAISE GRANT

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Gastonia Honey Hunters, I am writing with our strong support for the Lineberger Connector Project 2021 RAISE 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. 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 Project is the extension of Aberdeen Boulevard from Cox Road to the east that will open up access to close to 400 acres of infill property with superior access to the I-85 corridor, with major improvements to the intersection of Aberdeen Boulevard and Cox Road. Located within an Area of Persistent Poverty, the Lineberger Connector Project will create an estimated 2,500 new jobs with a total annual wage of \$103,820,000, helping to advance equity for all. In late 2020, NorthPoint Development purchased more than

800 West Franklin Blvd., Gastonia, NC 28052\* (704) 874-1810

300 acres of the Lineberger property for Gateway85. The development will include over 3,560,000 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 RAISE funding is critical to advance and construct this project.

The majority of the property currently has only one access point via Lineberger Road, which is a substandard two-lane facility with a skewed, 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.

The residents of this area are hardworking and deserving of opportunities to better their lives and the lives of their children, and the Lineberger Connector Project helps provide those opportunities. I appreciate your serious consideration of the Lineberger Connector Project application and your support for it.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brandon Bellamy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Brandon Bellamy, Owner