



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,

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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

Tracy L. Philbeck
Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:

Donna S. Buff
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners