



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

JOSH STEIN  
GOVERNOR

DANIEL H. JOHNSON  
SECRETARY

February 18, 2026

The Honorable Sean Duffy  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Support for the City of Hendersonville's Hendersonville Downtown Streets  
Modernization Project: New Streets for New Business BUILD Competitive Grant  
Application

Dear Secretary Duffy,

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) strongly supports the FY2026 BUILD grant application "Hendersonville Downtown Streets Modernization Project: New Streets for New Business," which is the result of a collaboration between the City of Hendersonville, Henderson County, NCDOT, and other local stakeholders.

The Hendersonville Downtown Streets Modernization project will improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists along two historic downtown corridors; provide a comfortable and welcoming public realm for families, individuals, and visitors; rebuild connections between underserved neighborhoods and downtown; act as a catalyst for tourism and economic development; improve resilience to flooding events; and create improved connections to multiple major regional trails.

By supporting this effort, USDOT can showcase a project that aligns closely with its notification of funding opportunity's objectives, including:

- Creating a safer local transportation system,
- Increasing quality of life for local families and individuals, and visitors,
- Providing improved accessible, affordable, and connected transportation options while maintaining vehicular roadway capacity,
- Creating local jobs and supporting local businesses, increasing tourism, and promoting economic opportunity

In summary, the Hendersonville Downtown Streets Modernization will act as an engine - powering healthy, resilient, safer, and integrated transportation opportunities, as well as providing for recreation options and economic transformation in this region.

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

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

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

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

I appreciate your serious consideration of the City of Hendersonville's grant application and your support for it.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
*Julie White*  
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Julie White  
Deputy Secretary for Multi-Modal Transportation  
North Carolina Department of Transportation