



NC Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

Nick Tennyson, Secretary
NC Department of Transportation
1501 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1501

Subject: Blue Ridge Road Grade Separation Project

Dear Secretary Tennyson:

The NC Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) wishes to express its support for NCDOT's FASTLANE grant application of Project U-4437, which is a Grade Separation project at NC 54 (Hillsborough Street) and SR 1664-3074 (Blue Ridge Road).

The project is proposed at the intersection of two major roadways (NC 54/Hillsborough St and Blue Ridge Rd) one minor Street (Beryl Rd), and the North Carolina Railroad corridor which runs parallel to Hillsborough St. and Beryl Rd and includes the CSX rail line. These intersections are located within mere feet of each other and adjacent to the NC State Fairgrounds and the NCSU Veterinary School, both presenting unique safety concerns for vehicular and pedestrian traffic. The intersections are currently controlled by two sets of traffic signals and rail crossing arms, making crossing Beryl Rd, the CSX line, and Hillsborough St unsafe. A high number of accidents have been reported at both the Hillsborough St and Beryl Rd intersections with Blue Ridge Rd.

Constructing a grade separation, by either raising Blue Ridge Rd or the CSX rail line, through this area will provide significant multi-modal, pedestrian and safety benefits. This project would also further implement NCDOT's goal of a sealed corridor and the Southeast High Speed Rail (SEHSR) initiative. It is for these reasons that the NC Capital Area MPO supports the full funding and implementation of this project.

Sincerely,

Dick Sears, Chair
Transportation Advisory Committee
NC Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

Cc: John Sullivan, PE
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