



## Mayor and City Council

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Bill Saffo

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**W**<sub>CITY OF</sub>  
**ILMINGTON**  
NORTH CAROLINA

April 20, 2021

Dear Congressman Rouzer:

On March 31, 2021 the Board of the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization supported the submittal of a request for Community Project Funding for the Drysdale Drive extension (U-5710A). The Drysdale Drive extension project is part of the larger Military Cutoff Road/Eastwood Road interchange project (U-5710) and the interchange is a top priority of the MPO. On behalf of the City of Wilmington, I write to express our support for Community Project Funding for U-5710A. The purpose of the overall interchange project is to alleviate traffic congestion at Eastwood Road (U.S. 74) and Military Cutoff Road (U.S. 76/U.S. 17) and to improve traffic carrying capacity and operation.

The intersection design at Eastwood Road and Military Cutoff Road will be a continuous flow with grade separation. The construction of the interchange will improve the level of service at this intersection from a LOS E in 2015 to a LOS D or better in the design year. This project will improve the intersection of US 74 and US 17, two primary routes in southeastern North Carolina. In addition, US 17 is a major freight route on the eastern United States.

The Gary Shell Cross City Trail, which is the spine of the City's greenway network, also traverses this intersection. The project will include bicycle and pedestrian accommodations to ensure safe crossings at this intersection. In addition, public transportation service is provided in the vicinity of this project so the construction of these improvements will contribute to the on-time delivery of public transportation services in our region.

The most current State/MPO Transportation Improvement Program includes funding for construction of Drysdale Drive extension (U-5710A) in FY 2022. The overall interchange project (U-5710) is funded for construction in FY 2025. Given the continued growth, the construction of this interchange is critical to the movement of people and goods in our region.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and efforts to advance transportation infrastructure in our region.

Sincerely,

Bill Saffo