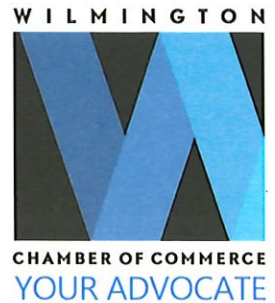


April 12, 2021

The Honorable David Rouzer
US House of Representatives
New Hanover County Office
201 N. Front Street
Suite 502
Wilmington, NC 28401



One Estell Lee Place
Wilmington, NC 28401

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Dear Representative Rouzer:

Thank you for your leadership on the issues of importance in our region. We are fortunate to have committed elected officials in North Carolina, who are leading and serving our state.

I'm writing today on behalf of the almost 900 businesses that invest in the Wilmington Chamber's vision to promote prosperity in our community by encouraging business growth. It should be of no surprise to you that transportation infrastructure investments and improvements top the list of those things important for business growth. Additionally, as a community that explodes during summer months as a tourist destination, transportation infrastructure is critical to accommodating those visitors who pump tens of thousands of dollars into our regional economy.

The Wilmington Chamber Board of Directors has consistently included continued capitalization of infrastructure enhancements to support new jobs and enhance existing business. There are a number of infrastructure investments we support. Among them, the heavily utilized intersection at Military Cutoff Road and Eastwood Road is a top priority.

On behalf of the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce, I write to express our support for Community Project Funding for U-5710 and more specifically the first phase of the project which is Drysdale Drive extension (U-5710A). The purpose of this project is to alleviate traffic congestion at Eastwood Road (U.S. 74) and Military Cutoff Road (U.S. 76/U.S. 17) and improve traffic carrying capacity and operation.

The intersection 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. US 17 is a major freight route on the

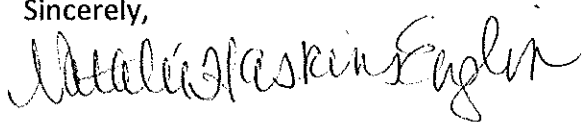
eastern United States. This project will improve the carrying capacity and overall operations of the intersection.

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 ensure the strength, resiliency, and vibrancy of the North Carolina economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Natalie Haskins English". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Natalie Haskins English
President and CEO