



NEW HANOVER COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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April 20, 2021

Congressman David Rouzer
2439 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Rouzer:

On behalf of New Hanover County, we are writing to express support for Community Project Funding for the Drysdale Drive extension (U-5710A). The Drysdale Drive extension project is part of the larger Eastwood Road and Military Cutoff Road interchange project (U-5710) and the interchange is a top priority of the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WMPO). The purpose of the overall interchange project is to alleviate traffic congestion at Eastwood Road (US 74) and Military Cutoff Road (US 76/US 17) and to improve traffic carrying capacity and operation. The WMPO Board, during its March 31, 2021 meeting, voted unanimously to support the submittal request for Community Project Funding for the Drysdale Drive extension (U-5710A).

The project will improve the intersection of US 74 and US 17, which are the two primary routes in southeastern North Carolina. US 17 is also a major freight route in the eastern United States. 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 level of service (LOS) E in 2015 to a LOS D or better in the design year.

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

The most current state and WMPO Transportation Improvement Programs include 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 this region.

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

Sincerely,

Julia Olson-Boseman
Chair

Jonathan Barfield, Jr.
County Commissioner and WMPO Board member