



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE  
GOVERNOR

1501 MAIL SERVICE CENTER, RALEIGH, N.C. 27699-1501

EUGENE A. CONTI, JR.  
SECRETARY

September 10, 2009

North Carolina Congressional Delegation

Dear Members:

The purpose of this letter is to express this Board's continued support for development of North Carolina's intercity and high speed passenger rail program. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provides an important opportunity to progress these initiatives. ARRA can provide competitive, discretionary grant funding and we need your help to secure a positive outcome.

The Department also requests unanimous support from our congressional delegation for our program of applications under ARRA and that you join together to seek a Letter of Intent (LOI) to support corridor development.

Representative David Price and Representative Howard Coble have graciously agreed to lead this effort on our behalf.

Recently, Governor Perdue announced that North Carolina has filed for more than \$92 million in "project-ready" applications. If approved, these projects can retain or create more than 1,450 jobs for our citizens.

Early in October, North Carolina will partner with Virginia to file a more comprehensive corridor development plan for the federally-designated Southeast High Speed Rail (SEHSR) corridor. Upon completion, SEHSR will provide frequent, reliable connections between Charlotte-Greensboro-Raleigh, North Carolina with Petersburg-Richmond, Virginia and on to Washington, DC. This modern passenger rail service is designed to be compatible with existing freight and intermodal services and will be capable of top speeds of 90-110 mph.

While USDOT is certain to receive applications in excess of available funds, Secretary LaHood is authorized to enter into Letters of Intent. These letters allow USDOT to participate in deploying SEHSR as funding becomes available.

Among our assets in seeking a LOI is the long-standing partnership with Virginia to develop SEHSR, and that we are among few corridors in the nation to have received a Record of Decision (ROD) from USDOT for the interstate high speed rail project.

- SEHSR is an essential component of the national interstate network
- Has strong economic development potential in both States

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- Will have a positive impact on congestion mitigation, land-use patterns, energy conservation and emissions reduction
- Will have a positive impact on increasing safety for the traveling public

USDOT has previously reported to Congress that once SEHSR is built, operation of the service is a viable public private opportunity. USDOT envisions SEHSR with ridership of nearly two million passengers annually. Moreover, construction of SEHSR in North Carolina alone is projected to create some 19,000 new jobs.

The Department ask that the North Carolina delegation unite to request a LOI from Secretary LaHood for development of SEHSR, and that our members reach out to the Virginia delegation to seek a LOI for the Washington to Charlotte portion of the corridor. The North Carolina Board of Transportation voted in unanimous support for this plan of action on September 3, 2009.

Thank you for your consideration and please let me know if you need any additional information.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J Douglas Galyon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

J. Douglas Galyon, Chairman  
North Carolina Board of Transportation

cc: Governor Beverly Perdue  
Secretary Eugene Conti, Jr.  
Governor Tim Kaine  
Secretary Pierce Homer