



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

October 23, 2006

LYNDO TIPPETT
SECRETARY

Mr. James D. Ray
Chief Counsel
Federal Highway Administration
400 Seventh Street SW, Room 4213
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Corridor Proposal
Corridors of the Future Program
Southeast High Speed Rail Corridor

Dear Sir:

The purpose of this letter is to transmit, on behalf of the North Carolina Department of Transportation, a corridor proposal for the Corridors of the Future Program (CFP). This corridor proposal responds to the request for applications published in the Federal Register on September 5, 2006.

The Southeast High Speed Rail Corridor (SEHSR) was initially designated by USDOT for future development in 1992, and since that time much has been accomplished among the several states and railroads. The objective of this work effort marries well with the CFP as it addresses congestion through a regional, multi-modal solution. While the primary emphasis to date has been on development of enhanced rail freight and passenger capacity, significant traffic will be diverted from both aviation and highways.

Should this corridor proposal be selected for further development, we will work with all effected parties to gain concurrence.

Sincerely,

/s/

Patrick B. Simmons, Director

cc: Secretary Lyndo Tippett
John Sullivan, FHWA Division Office
Joseph H. Boardman, FRA Administrator