

EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER
FIRST DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
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HEALTH

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THE BUDGET

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May 7, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the I-16 Widening 4 to 6 Lanes, Chatham, Effingham, & Bryan Counties in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Georgia Department of Transportation, located at One Georgia Center 600 West Peachtree NW Atlanta, Georgia 30308. The funding would be used to widen I-16 from 4 to 6 lanes in Chatham, Effingham, & Bryan Counties. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the project was identified in the Georgia Department of Transportation's 2023 Coastal Empire Planning Study which found that travel times and delay caused by traffic congestion for the 4-county metro Savannah region will grow exponentially in the coming decades. Therefore, approximately \$1.4 billion of investments were recommended, including the widening of I-16 from between I-95 in Chatham County and State Route 67 in Bulloch County (approximately 30 miles). This is one of Georgia's busiest freight corridors as well as the gateway to Georgia's growing port in Savannah. These historic increases of traffic volumes projected on this corridor are due to the expansion of the Port of Savannah and the establishment of an Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) factory and a multitude of new suppliers to the OEM factory throughout the region that will begin producing electric and hybrid vehicles later this year. Increasing high-performance capacity on the network will be critical for enabling mobility for people and freight in support of this additional economic activity, resulting in decreased travel times, as well as increased operational efficiencies and improved safety.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 23 USC 133(b)(1) (A)—23 USC 133(b) Construction of Highways.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family

Sincerely,



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress

