

EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER
FIRST DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT
AND CLIMATE CHANGE
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COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
THE BUDGET

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1001

WASHINGTON OFFICE
2432 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5831

SAVANNAH OFFICE
6602 ABERCORN STREET, SUITE 105B
SAVANNAH, GA 31405
(912) 352-0101

BRUNSWICK OFFICE
777 GLOUCESTER STREET, SUITE 410
BRUNSWICK, GA 31520
(912) 265-9010

<http://BuddyCarter.House.gov>

May 3, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the I-16 Widening 4 to 6 Lanes project in fiscal year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Georgia Department of Transportation, located at 600 West Peachtree Street, NW 22nd Floor, Atlanta, GA 30308.

The funding would be used to widen I-16 from four to six lanes in Bryan, Bulloch, and Chatham Counties. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the Georgia Department of Transportation's Coastal Empire Planning Study 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 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).

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