Dear Secretary Trogdon:

We write regarding the North Carolina Department of Transportation’s (NCDOT) planned expansion of the Interstate 440 (I-440) beltline in Raleigh and the project’s potential impact on our constituents and the surrounding community.

As you know, the portion of I-440 between Walnut Street in Cary and Wade Avenue in Raleigh is the oldest section of the beltline. Travelers on this segment experience a four lane bottleneck, narrow shoulders and medians, aging pavement, and short on-ramps that increase the likelihood of traffic accidents. As Wake County continues to grow, improvements must be made to accommodate rising congestion. At the same time, any project of this scope must take into account the legitimate concerns of nearby residents, businesses, and other stakeholders.

We understand NCDOT held a public hearing and received comments from the public. In particular, officials at Meredith College have raised several concerns regarding potential impacts on the western side of the campus. These include the loss of property, busy entry and exit ramps located near residential buildings, and the placement of tall lighting masts, all of which could negatively affect the learning and living environment of the campus.

We share these concerns and request that you continue to seek feedback and work collaboratively with Meredith College and other stakeholders as NCDOT finalizes the environmental assessment and solicits proposals for final design. Any feasible design alternatives or methods to reduce the footprint and impact of this project should be given priority in the planning and construction process. Finally, we appreciate that NCDOT engineers have made themselves available to our staff to discuss the project in more detail. We look forward to additional updates as the process moves forward.

Thank you for your consideration and service to North Carolina.

Sincerely,

David E. Price
Member of Congress

George Holding
Member of Congress