



September 14, 2010

Barry Moose, PE
Division Engineer
NCDOT Division 10
706 W. Main Street
Albemarle, NC 28001

Subject: I-77 HOT Lanes TIGER II Grant Application Project Support


Dear Mr. Moose,

The Town of Davidson supports the NCDOT in its pursuit of a TIGER II grant for the I-77 HOT lanes project in Mecklenburg County. HOT (High Occupancy Toll) lanes encourage more carpooling and transit ridership and require less dependence on public transportation funding for construction and maintenance. If TIGER II grant funds are secured, NCDOT and the Mecklenburg-Union Metropolitan Planning Organization (MUMPO) will be well-positioned to advance studies for widening I-77 north of the HOT lanes project and capture additional transit riders on the proposed North Line commuter rail system.

Davidson's Griffith Street interchange with I-77 is within the study area for this project, but outside of the proposed construction limits. I-77 is a severely congested highway, requiring a multi-pronged approach to managing traffic such as managed lanes, additional general purpose lanes, commuter rail, and regional multi-modal connections. The proposed I-77 HOT lanes project is an important step toward improving the mobility and economic vitality of the northern Mecklenburg County region.

As the NCDOT prepares to construct the I-77 HOT lanes, the Town of Davidson encourages you to begin the necessary environmental review of widening I-77 north of Catawba Avenue in Cornelius to respond to the inevitable congestion north of the HOT project limits. The Town of Davidson will also continue to work with neighboring jurisdictions to implement plans for commuter rail. The comprehensive network of general purpose lanes, managed lanes, and transit will create a much more livable environment for the region.

Sincerely,



John M. Woods
Mayor of Davidson