



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER  
GOVERNOR

J. ERIC BOYETTE  
SECRETARY

May 18, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing this letter to express strong support for the Yadkin River Greenway project submitted by the Piedmont Triad Regional Council for the **Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant** program. This project, anchored by a new pedestrian bridge plus other network improvements, will create a needed connection between the towns of Elkin and Jonesville and multiple existing trail systems, including three federal/state sanctioned trails.

NCDOT is committed to providing an efficient multi-modal transportation network in North Carolina so that the access, mobility, and safety needs of all users of all ages and abilities are safely accommodated. This commitment has led to the administration of several recent planning efforts in Yadkin River Greenway project area, including the Elkin Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, Jonesville Pedestrian Plan, and Yadkin Valley Regional Bicycle Plan. These local and regional planning efforts, as well as other statewide planning efforts, such as the Great Trails State Plan, have produced recommendations for developing connected transportation networks in the project area and demonstrate strong local interest and support in creating more responsive mobility options.

If awarded, construction of a pedestrian bridge would provide safe walking and biking connections between the towns of Elkin and Jonesville that have not existed since the Hugh Chatham Bridge was removed almost 20 years ago. Reestablishing this connection and connections to neighboring transportation facilities will enhance mobility options, increase safety, enhance economic opportunities and encourage healthy lifestyles. This project will also improve transportation conditions in an area exhibiting potential indicators of transportation disadvantage, such as higher rates of poverty and zero-vehicle households in comparison to the overall state.

Your consideration and support of this grant application for the Yadkin River Greenway project connecting the towns of Elkin and Jonesville is greatly appreciated

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
*Julie White*

B1309F15DE4B46B...  
Julie White, Deputy Secretary  
Multi-Modal Transportation

CHRIS KNOPF  
County Manager



HISTORIC COURTHOUSE  
114 W. Atkins Street  
Dobson, NC 27017

PHONE (336) 401-8201  
FAX (336) 401-8216

COUNTY OF SURRY

May 20, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We are writing this letter of commitment and support for the Yadkin Valley Greenway project being submitted to the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant program. A new pedestrian bridge will create a needed connection between the towns of Elkin and Jonesville and four existing trail systems. The area in question is the only place in North Carolina where three federally and/or state sanctioned trails converge.

We are excited about the opportunity to provide this key connection between the two towns on either side of the Yadkin River, which will help accommodate residents and tourists alike. A new pedestrian bridge will unlock benefits to economic development, health and transportation by safely linking the numerous trail systems that are developing including the Overmountain Victory Trail (Federal), Mountains to Sea Trail (State) and Yadkin River State Trail.

The Towns of Elkin and Jonesville are committed to assisting with staff support of project delivery in partnership with the NCDOT, Surry and Yadkin counties, the Elkin Valley Trails Association, Jonesville Greenway, Friends of the Mountains to Sea Trail and Piedmont Triad Regional Council, along with construction contracted partners, if awarded this grant opportunity. We have been planning for this connection across the Yadkin River for years, which will undoubtedly improve quality of life by providing opportunities for transportation, recreation, public health, economic development and environmental stewardship.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Chris Knopf in blue ink.

Chris Knopf, County Manager  
Surry County

# Town of Elkin



YADKIN VALLEY—NC • EST. 1889



## Town Manager

Brent Cornelison

## Town Attorney

Raymond A. Parker

## Mayor

Sam Bishop

## Commissioners

Robert Ball

Jeff Eidson

Will Gwyn

Cicely McCulloch

Tommy Wheeler

May 20, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Mayor and Board of Commissioners, I am writing this letter of commitment and support for the Yadkin Valley Greenway project being submitted to the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant program. A new pedestrian bridge will create a needed connection between the towns of Elkin and Jonesville and four existing trail systems. The area in question is the only place in North Carolina where three federally and/or state sanctioned trails converge.

We are excited about the opportunity to provide this key connection between the two towns on either side of the Yadkin River which will help accommodate residents and tourists alike. A new pedestrian bridge will unlock benefits to economic development, health and transportation by safely linking the numerous trail systems that are developing including the Overmountain Victory Trail (federal), Mountains to Sea Trail (State) and Yadkin River State Trail.

The Towns of Elkin is committed to assisting with staff support of project delivery in partnership with the NCDOT, the Town of Jonesville, Surry and Yadkin County, the Elkin Valley Trails Association, Jonesville Trails Association, Friends of the Mountains to Sea Trail and Piedmont Triad Regional Council along with construction contracted partners if awarded this grant opportunity. We have been planning for this connection across the Yadkin River for years which will undoubtedly improve quality of life by providing opportunities for transportation, recreation, public health, economic development, and environmental stewardship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brent Cornelison". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "B" and "C".

Brent Cornelison, Town Manager  
Town of Elkin



## TOWN OF JONESVILLE

1503 NC Hwy. 67  
Jonesville NC 28642  
(336) 835-3426  
(336) 835-3231 - Fax

May 20, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We are writing this letter of commitment and support for the Yadkin Valley Greenway project being submitted to the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant program. A new pedestrian bridge will create a needed connection between the towns of Jonesville and Elkin and four existing trail systems. The area in question is the only place in North Carolina where three federally and/or state sanctioned trails converge.

We are excited about the opportunity to provide this key connection between the two towns on either side of the Yadkin River which will help accommodate residents and tourists alike. A new pedestrian bridge will unlock benefits to economic development, health, and transportation by safely linking the numerous trail systems that are developing including the Overmountain Victory Trail (federal), Mountains to Sea Trail (State) and Yadkin River State Trail.

The Town of Jonesville is committed to assisting with staff support of project delivery in partnership with the NCDOT, Yadkin and Surry County, the Jonesville Trails Association, Elkin Valley Trails Association, Friends of the Mountains to Sea Trail and Piedmont Triad Regional Council along with construction contracted partners if awarded this grant opportunity. We have been planning for this connection across the Yadkin River for years which will undoubtedly improve quality of life by providing opportunities for transportation, recreation, public health, economic development, and environmental stewardship.

Sincerely,

Michael W. Pardue, Town Manager  
Town of Jonesville

*Kevin Austin, Chairman of Board  
David Moxley, Vice Chairman*

*Gilbert Hemric, Commissioner  
Board  
Marion Welborn, Commissioner  
Frank Zachary, Commissioner*



*Ed Powell, County Attorney  
Lisa Hughes, County Manager*

*Tanya Gentry, Clerk to the*

May 16, 2022

To: Federal Highway Administration  
Re: Multimodal Discretionary Grant Program Review Committee for the Rural Transportation Program Grant

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing this letter of support for the Yadkin Valley Greenway project being submitted to the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant program. A new pedestrian bridge will create a needed connection between the towns of Elkin and Jonesville and four existing trail systems. The area in question is the only place in North Carolina where three federally and/or state sanctioned trails converge.

The County of Yadkin has supported the efforts of the Town of Jonesville as they have developed greenway trails throughout the Town and encouraged development of two RV parks in the area. The COVID pandemic helped to promote outdoor activities and this area has seen an increase of residents and tourists taking advantage of the opportunities the communities have to offer. This project will further strengthen the opportunities with a new pedestrian bridge that will create a necessary connection between the two communities and numerous trail systems.

Citizens and visitors alike to the area will benefit from the pedestrian bridge project linking Elkin and Jonesville. The positive impact from this connection across the Yadkin River will undoubtedly improve quality of life by providing opportunities for transportation, recreation, public health, economic development, and environmental stewardship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Austin", written in a cursive style.

Kevin Austin  
Chairman  
Yadkin County Board of Commissioners

217 E. Willow Street ~ Post Office Box 220 ~ Yadkinville, North Carolina 27055  
(336) 849-7900 Office --- (336) 849-7920 Fax

[www.yadkincountync.gov](http://www.yadkincountync.gov)



**NORTHWEST PIEDMONT**  
**RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

May 19, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590


Dear Secretary Buttigieg:


The Northwest Piedmont Rural Planning Organization is deeply committed to improving the lives of the residents of Yadkin, Surry, Davie, and Stokes Counties in the Piedmont region of North Carolina. The RPO is able to do that through effective and innovative transportation planning. For years, establishing a viable pedestrian and bicycle transportation network between and within the communities of Elkin and Jonesville has been a top priority for the RPO. Specifically, re-establishing a safe and accessible multimodal connection over the Yadkin River between the two towns is of dire importance. As such, we are writing this letter of strong support for the Yadkin Valley Greenway project submitted by the Piedmont Triad Regional Council for the **Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant** program.

This project will improve transportation conditions and opportunities in an area exhibiting indicators of transportation disadvantage, such as higher rates of poverty and zero-vehicle households in comparison to the overall state.

The Northwest Piedmont Rural Planning Organization wholeheartedly offers its support, both current and future, to planning and construction efforts related to the Yadkin Valley Greenway. Through our partnership with the North Carolina Department of Transportation, we shall support the prioritization of projects in and around the scope of this application.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
  
5/19/2022  
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Scott Needham, TAC Chair

DocuSigned by:  
  
5/19/2022  
477571C538FF4AE...  
Carter Spradling, NWPRPO Director



May 11, 2022

To: Federal Highway Administration  
Re: Multimodal Discretionary Grant Program Review Committee for the Rural Transportation Program Grant

To Whom It May Concern:

The mission of the non-profit Elkin Valley Trails Association (EVTA) is to enrich the quality of life in the region by building and promoting a network of multiuse trails. Our vision- while observing and promoting leave no trace principles, these hiking, biking, running, paddling, and equestrian trails will promote a healthy lifestyle, provide educational and economic opportunities, preserve our history, and allow for organized events.

We are writing this letter of support for the Yadkin Valley Greenway project being submitted to the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant program. Included in this, is a new pedestrian bridge that will create a needed connection between the towns of Elkin and Jonesville and four existing trail systems. The area in question is the only place in North Carolina where three federally and/or state sanctioned trails converge.

When the Hugh Chatham Bridge was torn down several years ago, it left a significant void in pedestrian connectivity between Elkin and Jonesville. With the number of visitors travelling to both towns (these visitation numbers are increasing), it would be a tremendous benefit to have an exclusive pedestrian connection that would accommodate residents and tourists alike. While affording an exclusive pathway for pedestrians and further creating a safe delineation between vehicles and pedestrians, this new pedestrian bridge will create a necessary connection between the two communities and numerous trail systems.

Citizens and visitors alike to the area will benefit from the pedestrian bridge and greenway project linking Elkin and Jonesville. The positive impact from this connection across the Yadkin River will undoubtedly improve quality of life by providing opportunities for transportation, recreation, public health, economic development, and environmental stewardship.

As depicted in the map and data provided, you'll see the benefits and future potential of having this bridge and greenway become part of our community's infrastructure. Feel free to contact us for any additional questions or insights. Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,

Jason A. Taylor  
Chairman of the Board  
E: [jason.taylor@elkinvalleytrails.org](mailto:jason.taylor@elkinvalleytrails.org)





May 20, 2022

To: Federal Highway Administration  
Re: Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Program Review Committee for the Rural Transportation Program Grant

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of the Yadkin Valley Greenway project being submitted to the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant program. A new pedestrian bridge will create a needed connection between the towns of Elkin and Jonesville and four existing trail systems. The area in question is the only place in North Carolina where three federally and/or state sanctioned trails converge.

One of those trails, the Yadkin River State Trail (YRST) blueway, has one of its most important access areas near the proposed pedestrian bridge at Crater Park in Elkin. This is also one of the more unique areas where hikers on the Mountains-to-Sea Trail (MST) may actually complete a portion of the MST by paddling on the YRST. The new bridge will only enhance the connectivity of the existing trails.

When the Hugh Chatham Bridge was torn down several years ago, it left a significant void in pedestrian connectivity between Elkin and Jonesville. With the number of visitors travelling between both towns, it would be a tremendous benefit to have a pedestrian connection that would accommodate residents and tourists alike. A new pedestrian bridge will create a necessary connection between the two communities and numerous trail systems.

This connection will span the Yadkin River and provide pedestrians an opportunity to view a documented native American fish weir, just upriver from the proposed pedestrian bridge. Attempting to stand on the current bridge to view the fish weir is a dangerous proposition with traffic flying by. The pedestrian bridge will be a valuable asset to both communities and the Yadkin Riverkeeper in telling the history of the River and its earliest inhabitants.

Citizens and visitors alike to the area will benefit from the pedestrian bridge project linking Elkin and Jonesville. The positive impact from this connection across the Yadkin River will undoubtedly improve quality of life by providing opportunities for transportation, recreation, public health, economic development, and environmental stewardship. Yadkin Riverkeeper strongly supports this applications and believes it will

enhance the enjoyment of the area and the Yadkin River and will help increase public awareness of the River's important to the regional environment and economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Edgar Miller", is displayed on a light gray rectangular background.

Edgar Miller  
Riverkeeper/Executive Director  
Yadkin Riverkeeper



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

May 20, 2022

To: Federal Highway Administration  
Re: Multimodal Discretionary Grant Program Review Committee for the  
Rural Transportation Program Grant

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing this letter of support for the Yadkin Valley Greenway project being submitted to the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant program. A new pedestrian bridge will create a needed connection between the towns of Elkin and Jonesville and four existing trail systems. The area in question is the only place in North Carolina with three federally and/or state sanctioned trails converge.

The Yadkin Valley Chamber of Commerce and its 300 plus members are invested in helping the Yadkin Valley be the best place to live, work, play, and learn through our trails and hiking opportunities. Our Chamber members would certainly benefit from the additional visitors and tourist.

When the Hugh Chatham Bridge was torn down almost 20 years ago, it left a significant void in pedestrian connectivity between Elkin and Jonesville. With the number of visitors travelling to both towns, it would be a tremendous benefit to have a pedestrian connection that would accommodate residents and tourists alike.

The positive impact from this connection across the Yadkin River will undoubtedly improve the quality of life and economic environment by providing opportunities for transportation, recreation, public health, and environmental stewardship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Steelman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David Steelman, President  
YADKIN VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



May 11, 2022

Federal Highway Administration  
Multimodal Discretionary Grant Program Review Committee for the Rural  
Transportation Program Grant

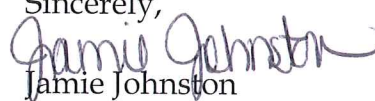
To Whom It May Concern:

The Yadkin County Tourism Development Authority is writing in of support of the Yadkin Valley Greenway project being submitted to the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant program. A new pedestrian bridge will create a needed connection between the towns of Elkin and Jonesville and four existing trail systems. The area in question is the only place in North Carolina where three federally and/or state sanctioned trails converge.

The TDA works diligently to promote visitation within Yadkin County and the Yadkin Valley Region. The establishment and growth of the Yadkin Valley American Viticulture Area, the first federally recognized wine producing region in North Carolina, brought a new focus on tourism for the entire Yadkin Valley. With more than 48 wineries currently in operation, our visitors are looking for additional activities to extend their stay in the Yadkin Valley. By having multiple greenways, historic trails, river trails and parks available in one area create unique opportunities to support tourism in the Yadkin Valley.

When the Hugh Chatham Bridge was torn down almost 20 years ago, it left a significant void in pedestrian connectivity between Elkin and Jonesville. With the number of visitors travelling to both towns, it would be a tremendous benefit to have a pedestrian connection that would accommodate residents and tourists alike. A new pedestrian bridge will create a necessary connection between the two communities and numerous trail systems.

Citizens and visitors alike to the area will benefit from the pedestrian bridge project linking Elkin and Jonesville. The positive impact from this connection across the Yadkin River will undoubtedly improve quality of life by providing opportunities for recreation, environmental stewardship, and support of tourism.

Sincerely,  
  
Jamie Johnston  
TDA Administrator

Yadkin County Tourism Development Authority  
205 South Jackson Street  
PO Box 1840 Yadkinville N.C. 27055-1840  
Telephone 1-877-492-3546 Fax 336-679-3034 [www.visityadkin.com](http://www.visityadkin.com)



May 11, 2022

Federal Highway Administration  
Multimodal Discretionary Grant Program Review Committee for the Rural  
Transportation Program Grant

To Whom It May Concern:

The Yadkin County Chamber of Commerce is writing in of support of the Yadkin Valley Greenway project being submitted to the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant program. A new pedestrian bridge will create a needed connection between the towns of Elkin and Jonesville and four existing trail systems. The area in question is the only place in North Carolina where three federally and/or state sanctioned trails converge.

The Chamber of Commerce works with business and industry to maintain Yadkin County and the Yadkin Valley as a premier location to live, work, raise a family, worship and enjoy the beauty of Northwest North Carolina. The Chamber also operates the visitor center for Yadkin County, and projects such as this are imperative to the continued growth of tourism in the Yadkin Valley. Expansion of our greenways, trails, and blue ways, in addition to the growth of our wineries, increase the "visitor experience" that sought by those coming to our area.

When the Hugh Chatham Bridge was torn down almost 20 years ago, it left a significant void in pedestrian connectivity between Elkin and Jonesville. With the number of visitors travelling to both towns, it would be a tremendous benefit to have a pedestrian connection that would accommodate residents and tourists alike. A new pedestrian bridge will create a necessary connection between the two communities and numerous trail systems.

Citizens and visitors alike to the area will benefit from the pedestrian bridge project linking Elkin and Jonesville. The positive impact from this connection across the Yadkin River will undoubtedly improve quality of life by providing opportunities for recreation, environmental stewardship, and support of tourism.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bobby Todd". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bobby Todd

Executive Director

205 South Jackson Street PO Box 1840 Yadkinville, N.C. 27055-1840  
Telephone 336-679-2200 Fax 336-679-3034 [www.yadkinchamber.org](http://www.yadkinchamber.org)



## Yadkin County Economic Development Partnership

May 11, 2022

Federal Highway Administration  
Multimodal Discretionary Grant Program Review Committee for the Rural  
Transportation Program Grant

To Whom It May Concern:

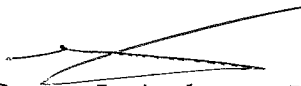
The Yadkin County Economic Development Partnership is writing in support of the Yadkin Valley Greenway project being submitted to the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant program. A new pedestrian bridge will create a needed connection between the towns of Elkin and Jonesville and four existing trail systems. The area in question is the only place in North Carolina where three federally and/or state sanctioned trails converge.

As the lead economic development agency for Yadkin County, our focus is on recruitment of industry and retention of existing industry currently located in Yadkin County. Growth of tourism, driven by the burgeoning wine industry as well as our recreation assets, adds to quality of life that visitors and newcomers alike are seeking. Projects such as this are imperative to the continued growth of the Yadkin Valley.

When the Hugh Chatham Bridge was torn down almost 20 years ago, it left a significant void in pedestrian connectivity between Elkin and Jonesville. With the number of visitors travelling to both towns, it would be a tremendous benefit to have a pedestrian connection that would accommodate residents and tourists alike. A new pedestrian bridge will create a necessary connection between the two communities and numerous trail systems.

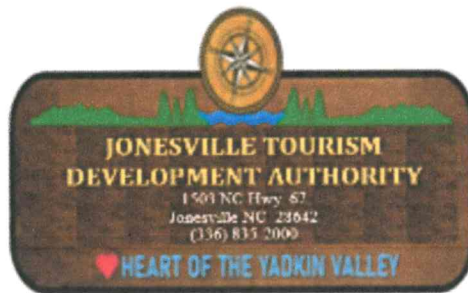
Citizens and visitors alike to the area will benefit from the pedestrian bridge project linking Elkin and Jonesville. The positive impact from this connection across the Yadkin River will undoubtedly improve quality of life by providing opportunities for recreation, environmental stewardship, and support of tourism.

Sincerely,



George L. Anderson, Jr.  
President

205 South Jackson Street PO Box 1840 Yadkinville N.C. 27055-1840  
Telephone 336-679-2200 Fax 336-679-3034 [www.yadkinedc.com](http://www.yadkinedc.com)



May 20, 2022

To: Federal Highway Administration  
Re: Multimodal Discretionary Grant Program Review Committee for the Rural Transportation Program Grant

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing this letter of support for the Yadkin Valley Greenway project being submitted to the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant program. A new pedestrian bridge will create a needed connection between the towns of Elkin and Jonesville and four existing trail systems. The area in question is the only place in North Carolina where three federally and/or state sanctioned trails converge.

The Jonesville Tourism Development Authority (JTDA) works to spread awareness of Jonesville as a destination and a place meant for and developed to be discovered through tourism centered around the Yadkin River. The JTDA has been directly involved with the Greenway Trail project since its inception and continues to serve as a driving force for the project's progression.

When the Hugh Chatham Bridge was torn down almost 20 years ago, it left a significant void in pedestrian connectivity between Elkin and Jonesville. With the number of visitors traveling to both towns, it would be a tremendous benefit to have a pedestrian connection that would accommodate residents and tourists alike. A new pedestrian bridge will create a necessary connection between the two communities and numerous trail systems.

Citizens and visitors alike to the area will benefit from the pedestrian bridge project linking Elkin and Jonesville. The positive impact from this connection across the Yadkin River will undoubtedly improve quality of life by providing opportunities for transportation, recreation, public health, economic development, and environmental stewardship. The story of Jonesville's past cannot be told without mentioning the town's bridges, and the JTDA believes that a new pedestrian bridge would be the gateway to a bright future in Jonesville.

Sincerely,

Anita Darnell  
President, Jonesville TDA



May 18, 2022

To: Federal Highway Administration

Re: Multimodal Discretionary Grant Program Review Committee  
for the Rural Transportation Program Grant

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing this letter of support for the Yadkin Valley Greenway project being submitted to the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant program. A new pedestrian bridge will create a needed connection between the towns of Elkin and Jonesville and four existing trail systems. The area in question is the only place in North Carolina where three federally and/or state sanctioned trails converge.

We own RiverWalk RV Park located just down the river from the proposed bridge. We are an award-winning park that averages over 10k people annually in and out of the Jonesville/Elkin area. A pedestrian bridge would be an amazing addition considering many of our guests are unable to go back and forth due to traveling in RVs. We already devote countless time and money helping maintain the trail and park areas. I feel that both towns would benefit greatly as they thrive off of these types of activities.

When the Hugh Chatham Bridge was torn down several years ago, it left a significant void in pedestrian connectivity between Elkin and Jonesville. With the number of visitors traveling to both towns, it would be a tremendous benefit to have a pedestrian connection that would accommodate residents and tourists alike. A new pedestrian bridge will create a necessary connection between the two communities and numerous trail systems.

Citizens and visitors alike to the area will benefit from the pedestrian bridge project linking Elkin and Jonesville. The positive impact from this connection across the Yadkin River will undoubtedly improve quality of life by providing opportunities for transportation, recreation, public health, economic development, and environmental stewardship.

Sincerely,

Jim & Marcia Neese  
Owners- RiverWalk RV Park  
riverwalkrvnc@gmail.com