

# Yadkin Valley Greenway

-Elkin, Jonesville, Surry County, Yadkin County-

May 17, 2022

Senator Phil Berger  
16 West Jones Street, Room 2007  
Raleigh, NC 27601

Dear Senator Berger:

Please accept this letter requesting a \$5,000,000 state budget allocation towards the construction of a pedestrian bridge across the Yadkin River connecting downtown Elkin and the Town of Jonesville. This request is being made jointly by the Town of Elkin, Town of Jonesville, Surry County, and Yadkin County.

With the assistance of the Northwest Piedmont Rural Planning Organization and Piedmont Triad Regional Council, an application is being submitted to the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant program. The state budget allocation being requested would serve as the 20% match to this federal grant. A new pedestrian bridge will create a needed connection between the two towns 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 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant common application (MPDG) provides Federal financial assistance to highway and bridge, intercity passenger rail, railway-highway grade and separation, wildlife crossing, public transportation, marine highway, and freight and multimodal projects, or groups of such projects, of national or regional significance, as well as to projects to improve and expand the surface transportation infrastructure in rural areas.

US DOT seeks to award projects under the MPDG common application that address environmental justice, particularly for communities (including rural communities) that may disproportionately experience consequences from climate change and other pollutants. Environmental justice, as defined by the Environmental Protection Agency, is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. The Department seeks to fund projects that, to the extent possible, target at least 40 percent of resources and benefits towards low-income communities, disadvantaged communities, communities underserved by affordable transportation, or overburdened communities. The Department also seeks to award projects under the MPDG common application that proactively

address equity and barriers to opportunity, including automobile dependence as a form of barrier, or redress prior inequities and barriers to opportunity. Consistent with the Department's Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success (ROUTES) initiative, the Department seeks to award funding to rural projects that address deteriorating conditions and disproportionately high fatality rates and transportation costs in rural communities.

When the Hugh Chatham Bridge was demolished several 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.


The Town of Elkin is located on the north side of the Yadkin River in Surry County. With a community of approximately 4,000 residents, the town has experienced tremendous growth in the tourism sector over the past two decades. Elkin is a trail town with the presence of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail, Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail and the Yadkin River Trail, all travelling through the heart of downtown.

Jonesville is located on the south side of the Yadkin River in the northwest corner of Yadkin County. A community of 2,242, Jonesville has a growing recreational based economy that is dependent on the Jonesville Greenway System. Two RV Parks now call Jonesville home and are adjacent to the greenway. Jonesville has 4.5 miles of greenway trails adjacent to the Yadkin River and a new 154-acre park at the downstream end. Development activities are ongoing to update the trail and park.

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.

Please let us know if you have any questions or require any additional information. We look forward to future conversations with you and your staff about this important and critical economic development project.

Respectfully,



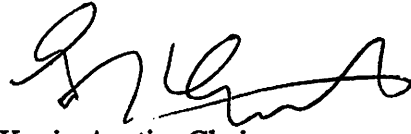
Sam Bishop, Mayor  
Town of Elkin



Gene Pardue, Mayor  
Town of Jonesville



**Bill Goins, Chairman  
Surry County Board of Commissioners**



**Kevin Austin, Chairman  
Yadkin County Board of Commissioners**