

January 12, 2017

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Re: North Carolina Turnpike Authority application for Docket No.: [DOT-OST-2016-0233](#) (ref)  
Solicitation of Proposals for Designation of Automated Vehicle Proving Grounds Pilot

Dear Secretary Foxx,

The Regional Transportation Alliance, a business coalition advancing transportation solutions in the greater Research Triangle region of North Carolina, supports the NC Turnpike Authority application for the Triangle Expressway to serve as a designated automated vehicle proving ground pilot.

Located within and adjacent to Research Triangle Park – the largest research park in North America – the Triangle Expressway is one the most advanced freeways in the United States. The 70 MPH turnpike was the first new toll road designed at the outset for automated toll collection, and it is currently the most interoperable in the US, accepting transponders from the northeast/mid-Atlantic/Midwest (E-ZPASS) and southeast (Florida SunPass, Georgia PeachPass NC QuickPass) for years.

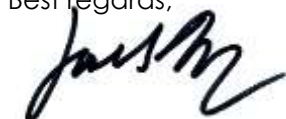
The existing Turnpike is vital to commerce and personal mobility, as it connects many fast growing suburbs in Wake County to Research Triangle Park while enabling regional transit vehicles to bypass peak hour congestion on I-40. Safe autonomous vehicle operation would expand the potential benefits for commuting, transit, tourism, and personal travel.

Our region thrives on innovation. We were ranked by Forbes as the most educated large metro area in the US, and we are the home of three Tier 1 research universities. Exploration of safe, autonomous vehicle operation for personal mobility is consistent with our market's innovation ethos.

We understand that NCDOT already collects more safety and operational data for the Turnpike than any of the more than 80,000 miles of state-owned highway in North Carolina. As the Turnpike has growing traffic volumes but does not experience heavy congestion, this should increase the opportunity for successful implementation of one or more autonomous vehicle pilot projects.

The Regional Transportation Alliance business coalition endorses this application to advance the cause of safe and reliable transportation in the United States. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at 919.664.7065 or [joe@letsgetmoving.org](mailto:joe@letsgetmoving.org)

Best regards,



Joe Milazzo II, PE  
Executive Director  
Regional Transportation Alliance