



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

JAMES H. TROGDON, III
SECRETARY

September 21, 2017

US 70 Corridor Commission
Attention: M. Durwood Stephenson
P.O. Box 1187
Smithfield, NC 27577

Subject: Neuse River Flood Abatement Research Project

Mr. Stephenson,

I wanted to update you on efforts underway by the North Carolina Department of Transportation in support of the Highway 70 Commission's Resolution to request greater efforts to avoid flooding within the Neuse River Basin.

As we learned last month, the Corps of Engineers has indicated that they currently have no authority to study flooding in the Neuse River Basin. While they stated that they could request authorization to study the Neuse Basin in 2020, a resolution to obtain federal funding is not expected to be feasible on our timeline to begin immediate action. While we are hopeful for assistance from North Carolina's local delegation in the United States House and Senate, we cannot wait to take action. This is an update of the NCDOT's efforts to propose real solutions in the near term.

We are currently compiling contact information and availability of the stakeholders to set up the initial Neuse River Flood Abatement Research Steering Committee meeting. Steering committee members are expected to be stakeholders representing the United States Geological Survey/North Carolina State University Water Resources Research Institute, the NC Department of Agriculture Commissioner, NC Department of Public Safety's NC Flood Mapping Program Director, N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources' Dam Safety Program Director, NC Department of Transportation's Office of the Secretary and Hydraulics Unit, Mayors of municipalities along the corridor, certain other local entities at your discretion, and yourself as the Chairman. Please send us the contact information of any others you would like involved.

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As you very well know, many local communities have also made similar resolutions to address flooding along the US 70 corridor in the Neuse River Basin. We currently have secured initial funding through the NCDOT Research and Development Unit and have started our preliminary study of cumulative storm water flow from piedmont development runoff within the inner coastal plain from Smithfield to Kinston. We continue to investigate and identify sources of additional funding and partnerships to solve this urgent problem. Thank you for recognizing the importance of this critical issue and we appreciate any support that the Commission may be able to provide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Lewis', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert W. Lewis, PE
Chief Operating Officer