CHARLOTTE.

November 21, 2013

Governor Patrick McCrory
Office of the Governor
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699

The Honorable Patrick McCrory:

On behalf of the Charlotte City Council, I am writing to express our community's growing and serious concern over the physical and visual impact to the City of Charlotte of noise mitigation walls that are proposed as part of the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) I-77 High Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lane Project. As proposed, these noise walls will be one of the most visible aspects of this project. Getting it right is a critical part of this project's ultimate success and public perception.

Charlotte's tree-lined neighborhoods and soaring Uptown skyline are fundamental parts of our community character and are essential to our long-term livability and economic vitality. While we continue to support this important regional investment, we need the continued support and commitment of NCDOT to ensure that our neighborhoods, our city center, and our valuable community character are fully considered and protected.

Within the City of Charlotte, over 30,000 linear feet (5.5 miles) of noise walls are proposed. This magnitude of physical and visual impact has only recently been made clear to the impacted neighborhoods, stakeholders, the Mayor's office and City Council, through a series of photographic visualizations and follow-up presentations prepared by NCDOT staff. We fully appreciate the potential need for these noise mitigation measures. However, given the scale of the potential community impact, we are simply requesting appropriate time for City staff to conduct a more thorough community engagement process.

We understand that time is of the essence. We have directed city staff to work collaboratively with the NCDOT Project Team to immediately engage the community to evaluate more broadly the physical and visual impacts of the proposed noise walls. To that end, city staff has just recently scheduled upcoming community meetings on December 11th and 17th. Additional community follow-up and discussions will be necessary, requiring continued accommodation and support of NCDOT staff.

Patsy B. Kinsey, Mayor
Office of the Mayor 600 East Fourth Street Charlotte, NC 28202-2839 704/336-2241

Our goal is the same, to be stewards of this community investment and ensure a successful project. We ask for your support to make sure that this project's success includes the protection and enhancement of Charlotte's valuable community character. I would greatly appreciate a response as to your willingness to direct NCDOT staff to provide additional time for City staff to continue the community engagement process at least to mid to late January.

Thanks in advance for your prompt attention to this request. We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Patsy

Patsy B. Kinsey
Mayor

CC:
Secretary Tony Tata, North Carolina Department of Transportation
Edward L. Curran, Chairman, NCDOT Board of Directors
Representative William Brawley, Chairman, North Carolina House Committee on Transportation
Senator Joel D. Ford, North Carolina General Assembly
Senator Malcolm Graham, North Carolina General Assembly
Billy Constangy, Governor's Piedmont Office