



## Soil and Water Conservation District

☎ 919-250-1050

**Wake County Office Park**  
Agricultural Services Building  
4001 Cary Drive, Suite D • Raleigh, NC 27610  
wake.gov/swcd

March 19, 2024

Diane Wilson  
Senior Public Involvement Officer  
Environmental Analysis Unit  
North Carolina Department of Transportation  
1598 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1598

Dear Ms. Wilson:

The Wake County Agricultural Advisory Board appreciates your cooperation and participation with the public hearing held on March 12, 2024, regarding the impacts to parcels enrolled in the Wake County Voluntary Agricultural District from NCDOT Project HL-0008I, Improvements to Old Stage Road and Rock Service Station Road in Wake County.

As a result of the additional information provided by the North Carolina Department of Transportation and comments from the impacted VAD landowners, the Wake County Agricultural Advisory Board provides the following recommendations:

- The project must ensure that there is safe access to Back Field Road for landowners, farmers and the public stopping at the farmstand, there must be a traffic signal or an equivalent safety measure to ensure safe ingress and egress to the new traffic pattern. The signal must allow for farm traffic to safely enter and exit Back Field Road and make left turns or drive straight, instead of only turning right to merge into U-turn traffic.
- The project should allow for the immediate or future possibility of a 4-leg intersection to safely accommodate traffic on Back Field Road.
- The agency must provide the financial analysis conducted for this project. Planning for safe access was made for an adjacent business, and farm owners and operators deserve the same concessions, as farms are businesses not just open land.
- The agency must provide support to demonstrate that there will not be any negative environmental impacts to the existing farm pond by providing an environmental analysis.

In addition, these parcels are a North Carolina Century Farm, and the board recommends that appropriate protections be taken to preserve its significant history. In future, we request that potential projects are brought to the attention of the Wake County Agricultural Advisory Board as early as possible to allow for adequate preparation.

We hope that these recommendations will be considered as the project is finalized. If you have any remaining questions, please contact the Wake County Agricultural Advisory Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick Johnson".

Patrick Johnson – Chair, Wake County Agricultural Advisory Board