



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Atlanta Federal Center
1924 Building
100 Alabama Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303



IN REPLY REFER TO:

10.D. (SERO-RD)

The Honorable Ted Budd
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Budd:

Thank you for your correspondence dated April 10, 2025, to Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum requesting that the National Park Service (NPS) pause a multi-year Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) road project underway on the Blue Ridge Parkway (Parkway) to accommodate pressing community recovery needs following Hurricane Helene. Your letter was forwarded to me for a response.

The Parkway, in coordination with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), supports postponing full closures between Blowing Rock and Beacon Heights during the 2025 visitor season to address the concerns you have raised. The full road rehabilitation project and associated closures are now scheduled to take place in 2026 and the overall project to be completed in 2027 or later. This adjustment assumes that, for the 2025 visitor season, reconstruction work will continue in overlooks between Moses Cone Memorial Park and Beacon Heights (while also allowing continuous access to North Carolina State Park trail systems), and single-lane traffic control for additional patching will continue in this same area to improve safety. The NPS is working closely with the FHWA to make necessary project modifications. Details will be released to the public as they are available.

The National Park Service honors the important relationship between the Parkway and the many communities it connects over its 469-mile passage through North Carolina and Virginia. We appreciate your continued interest in the Blue Ridge Parkway and National Park Service. For additional information, please contact Acting Parkway Superintendent Rachel Stasny at Rachel_Stasny@nps.gov or (828) 348-3415.

A similar response is being sent to the cosigner of your letter.

Sincerely,

Darrell L. Echols
Acting Regional Director

Interior Region 2 • South Atlantic-Gulf

Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi
North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, U.S. Virgin Islands