

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Project Delivery

In 2003, *NC Go!* called for a study to examine current operations and make recommendations for improvement in TIP project delivery. Last year, after the release of the report, *NC Go!* released its targeted recommendations to improve project delivery and urged the state to adopt them as priorities. *NC Go!* will continue to advocate for implementation of these recommendations.

Local Options

NC Go! believes local options are an important part of comprehensive transportation policy. *NC Go!* will support legislation allowing local governments to bring local option funding proposals to a vote.

Highway Trust Fund

The cash balances of the Highway Trust Fund are now dangerously low. As a result, NCDOT has announced plans to postpone \$600 million in highway spending. *NC Go!* supports legislation to end transfers from the Highway Trust Fund to the General Fund and the spending of transportation funds for other purposes.

New Revenue Options

NC Go! will be an advocate for needed funding solutions. *NC Go!* will continue to research new sources of transportation revenue and distribute information about them to the N.C. General Assembly and public.

More than **\$3.2 billion** has been taken from the Highway Trust Fund since 1989 and used for non-transportation purposes.

North Carolina will have a **\$28 billion shortfall** over the next 25 years in needed highway and bridge funding.

Traffic congestion in North Carolina costs **\$775 million** annually in delays and wasted fuel.

Ninety-four percent of the **\$267 billion** worth of commodities delivered annually in North Carolina are transported on the state's highways.

NC Go! has encouraged the state to adopt the following priorities for improving project delivery:

- Survey other states to learn how they have reduced the length of environmental assessments.
- Take a specific look at all permitting requirements and ask if any significant value or benefit is received from maintaining standards that exceed federal requirements.
- Establish appropriate delegation of authority between NCDOT, N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and other agencies involved in the project delivery process.
- Establish a set of clearly defined — and measurable — expectations regarding project delivery for each agency involved in the process.

How can *NC Go!* help you?



1201 Edwards Mill Rd.
Suite 102
Raleigh, NC 27607

ncgo@ncgo.org



THE VOICE OF TRANSPORTATION





The **NC Go!** mission: To support efforts to improve transportation funding and improve the state's transportation infrastructure.

THE VOICE OF TRANSPORTATION

NC Go! is the single best resource in the state on transportation issues. Its diverse membership – including local chambers of commerce, regional transit systems, construction industry associations and consulting engineers – uniquely suits it to comprehensively address the many facets of transportation policy.

THE VOICE OF VOTERS

According to a recent statewide poll conducted by *NC Go!*:

- Eighty percent of North Carolinians support speeding up the environmental permitting process.
- Sixty-four percent say working on traffic congestion and transportation solutions in the Legislature is a top priority.
- Fifty-four percent say the state should spend more on transportation needs.
- Fifty-two percent say gas tax revenues should only be spent on roads and other transportation projects.
- Fifty percent favor toll roads, to be paid for by the users of those roads.



The Voice of the Future

North Carolina's transportation infrastructure is facing serious problems. The Road Information Program (TRIP) has identified \$40 billion dollars in current needs for our state's transportation system.

Because of diversions from the state Highway Trust Fund and increased spending over the last several years, **cash balances in the Highway Trust Fund are approaching dangerously low levels.**

In fact, the NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is being forced to scale back and delay projects in order to avoid falling below the legislatively-mandated minimum cash balance. **These setbacks are further threatening transportation solutions.**

The negative impact of congestion is much more than the frustration of being stuck in traffic. **To companies looking to locate or expand their business to our state, adequate transportation infrastructure is a fundamental requirement.**

Long-term solutions must be developed and implemented now in order to keep North Carolina's transportation system moving and its economy growing.