



**For Immediate Release**

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**Statement by *NC Go!* Chair Marc Finlayson (NC Highway 17 Association) on Senate Press Conference**

Today's Senate press event led by Senator Bill Rabon was eye-opening in that it cemented that chamber's position on the need for a long-term funding plan for transportation. As we head into August, still with no agreement on how to finance our state's transportation network, *NC Go* calls on Senate and House leaders to reach consensus and focus on safety and economic prosperity in our state.

NCDOT projects that between now and 2040, our state needs an estimated \$114 billion to ensure our transportation system is safe, reduces traffic congestion, and creates economic opportunities rather than gridlock and bottlenecks. Over that same time, our state only anticipates \$54 billion in revenue – a **\$60 billion shortfall**.

For years, *NC Go* has offered funding solutions ranging from increased DMV and other motor vehicle fees to ending "the transfer." The transfer of transportation revenue to fund non-transportation items has long been a sore subject for the general public, eroding confidence in how our state funds roads, bridges, public transportation and more. Many of the funding solutions we've championed, including an end to transfer, are in the existing Senate proposals and would amount to millions of additional dollars for transportation.

And while we have supported Gov. McCrory's \$1.2 billion transportation bond proposal, and commend him for his long-standing commitment to improving transportation in our state, there appears to be no support for a transportation bond in either the House or Senate. Our recommendation – move forward with a long-range plan that can generate support in both chambers and address the very real needs facing our state. Focus on the projects already slated as part of the Strategic Transportation Investments Law – a law carefully constructed, vetted and passed by both the House and Senate and signed into law by the Governor.

We commend Senator Rabon and his colleagues in the Senate for their leadership and vision, and both chambers for making long-term transportation funding a priority. *NC Go* looks forward to working with the House and Senate to make a long-term funding plan a reality this session.

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