



**For Immediate Release**

Contact: **Charles Hodges**, [director@ncgo.org](mailto:director@ncgo.org)

NC Go! Executive Director

(919) 609-6772

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**Statement by NC Go! Chair Marc Finlayson (NC Highway 17/64 Association) on the House Select Committee on Strategic Transportation Planning and Long Term Funding Solutions**

As a new legislative session gets underway, NC Go! commends the efforts of the **House Select Committee on Strategic Transportation Planning and Long Term Funding Solutions** (*House Select Committee*) and its final report delivered on January 10, 2017. Since July of 2016, under the leadership of Rep. John A. Torbett, committee members have traveled the state, delved into the workings and needs of all our transportation modes, and sought to provide a comprehensive plan for addressing our state's needs. We salute the committee members and especially Rep. Torbett for their hard work and leadership.

North Carolina still faces an uphill battle in maintaining our transportation infrastructure and creating the capacity needed for a truly 21<sup>st</sup> Century system. The motor fuels tax – our state's largest source of revenue – will not sustain North Carolina's transportation needs. In recent years we've welcomed modest increases in transportation funding, but with aging infrastructure and a fast-growing state, we must do better.

NC Go! applauds the recommendations outlined in the House Select Committee's final report, especially those addressing "Megaproject" funding and the creation of a Blue Ribbon Committee on Transportation Infrastructure Funding. Our state's current transportation plan and available funding is unable to address major projects such as improvements to I-95 without draining funding from other needed transportation projects around the state. A megaproject fund would help address major projects – especially unanticipated ones – with the creation of a separate, and new source of revenue.

And NC Go! welcomes the creation of a Blue Ribbon Committee on Transportation Infrastructure Funding and will assist the committee if asked. However, our state cannot wait until 2019 to continue the conversation about our transportation needs, plans and sources of revenue. North Carolina's leaders must move forward, think boldly, and improve transportation in our state beginning in this legislative session. We applaud the House Select Committee and its members for their efforts to achieve these goals.

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