



For Immediate Release

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North Carolina to Receive Transformative Infrastructure Funding through 'Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act'

Nov. 10, 2021 (Raleigh) - On Friday, Nov. 5, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to pass HR 3684, the "Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act" - a \$1.2 TRILLION investment in our nation's infrastructure that includes the five-year re-authorization of the surface transportation programs **AND** \$550 billion in new federal spending. NC Go! applauds Senators Richard Burr and Thom Tillis for their early support of the bipartisan legislation in the Senate and recognizes the following members of the U.S. House of Representatives for their vote in favor of this major investment:

- Rep. George "G.K." Butterfield (D-NC 1)
- Deborah Ross (D-NC 2)
- David Price (D-NC 4)
- Kathy Manning (D-NC 6)
- Alma Adams (D-NC 12)

"This is the most sweeping public works investment since the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1956," said Charles Hodges, NC Go executive director. "The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will not only help North Carolina address maintenance and improvements to our highway, bridge and public transportation system, it will allow our state to better plan for future growth and begin to modernize for the transportation system of the future."

The legislation, which President Biden plans to officially sign into law in the coming weeks, includes:

- \$110 billion for roads, bridges and other projects;
- \$39 billion for public transit;
- \$66 billion for passenger and freight rail;
- \$25 billion for aviation;
- \$7.5 billion for electric vehicle charging stations; and
- Additional funds for fund other infrastructure needs, including water, expanding broadband, and modernizing the energy grid.

As for North Carolina, the state will receive funding for bridge and highway improvement and expansion, as well as jump start vital urban transit projects. It will also boost funding for rural public transportation systems that connect citizens to healthcare and community services and provide improvements for public airports across the state.

The investment is overdue, and North Carolina's overall infrastructure needs a shot in the arm. The American Society of Civil Engineers' "Infrastructure Report Card" consistently points to the

deficiencies in our state's roads, bridges, water and sewer, aviation and more. "Consulting engineers are problem solvers ready to tackle our state's most complex challenges," said Jim Smith, executive director for the American Council of Engineering Companies of NC. "This funding will allow for the modernization of our transportation network, as well as upgrades and expansions to aged water, wastewater, and storm water infrastructure, plus transit, rail, aviation, and broadband networks. The engineering community stands ready to deliver much needed services to get projects designed and moving forward."

"With over 1,460 bridges and 3,116 miles of highways in poor condition, the additional funds will enable greatly needed improvements to our roads and bridges," said Victor Barbour of Carolinas Associated General Contractors. "The investment will create or sustain hundreds if not thousands of jobs for North Carolinians."

Beyond roads and bridges, the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* will bolster public transportation programs in urban and rural communities around the state. "The increased Investments in public transit, inter-city and regional rail, as well as the fast-emerging need for electric vehicle charging, are just the kind of infrastructure that will position our cities, metro regions and state to maintain a high quality of life, healthy environment and competitive economy," added Beau Mills, executive director for the NC Metropolitan Mayors Coalition.

And while transit might equate to light rail, commuter rail and large bus systems for urban regions, for many counties and rural communities, public transportation is a lifeline for some citizens providing economic mobility, freedom of travel, and access to health care. "The federal funding will complement our state funding support from the North Carolina General Assembly," said David Rhew, executive director for the NC Public Transportation Association, "so we can further respond to historically underserved populations and continue providing an economic impact through public transit in North Carolina."

"North Carolina's network of 72 public airports – 10 air carrier and 62 general aviation – should really benefit from these added funds," said Greg Dean, executive director for the Carolinas Concrete Paving Association. "The additional \$3 billion per year – on top of the typical \$3.3 billion in airport improvement program (AIP) funds, will make a positive difference toward improving runway, taxiway and apron pavement conditions."

"Our state is growing, our transportation infrastructure is aging, and we are facing rapid technological change as it relates to transportation," said Hodges, "such as autonomous vehicles, electrification and ride-sharing – and the transportation system technology needed to support that change."

"This federal funding is a down payment on safety, mobility and economic prosperity – but only a down payment. We are grateful to our U.S. Senators and House members who voted to support this bill, but also call on our own state legislature to continue seeking long-term funding strategies that help our state meet future needs."

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