

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY



JOINT LEGISLATIVE TRANSPORTATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

REPORT TO THE 2012 SESSION of the 2011 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

APRIL 23, 2012

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TRANSMITTAL LETTER

April 23, 2012

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE 2012 REGULAR SESSION
OF THE 2011 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The JOINT LEGISLATIVE TRANSPORTATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE respectfully submits the following report to the 2012 Regular Session of the 2011 General Assembly.

Sen. Bill Rabon, Co-Chair

Rep. Phillip Frye, Co-Chair

Rep. Grey Mills, Co-Chair

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COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

The Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee met seven times from October 2011 to April 2012. The following is a brief summary of the Committee's proceedings. Detailed minutes and information from each Committee meeting are available in the Legislative Library.

October 11, 2011

The first meeting of the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee during the 2011-2012 biennium was held Tuesday, October 11, 2011 in Room 1228 of the Legislative Building. After a review of the Committee Charge, the Committee heard an overview of DOT's budget from Anna Cameron, Committee Staff. Next, the Committee heard presentations on DOT's prioritization process from Don Voelker, Director, Strategic Planning Office, DOT and Alpesh Patel, Strategic Planning Office, DOT. Following these presentations, the Committee heard a presentation on hurricane preparation and recovery from Terry Gibson, State Highway Administrator, DOT, and Jon Nance, Chief Engineer of Operations, DOT. Next, the Committee heard a presentation on budgeting for natural disasters and other weather events from Mark Foster, Chief Financial Officer, DOT. The final presentation of the meeting, an update on high speed rail, was given by Paul Worley, Director, Engineering & Safety Branch, Rail Division, DOT.

November 4, 2011

The second meeting of the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee during the 2011-2012 biennium was held Friday, November 4, 2011 in Room 1228 of the Legislative Building. The Committee first heard a presentation on the advantages and disadvantages of tolling, with a State and national perspective, from Thomas Harrelson, Associate Vice President, AECOM, and former Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Transportation. Next, the Committee heard a presentation on the future of tolling in North Carolina from Terry Gibson, State Highway Administrator, DOT. Next, the Committee heard an overview of the North Carolina Turnpike Authority from David Joyner, Executive Director, N.C. Turnpike Authority. The final presentation, on the steps in the road building process, was made by Terry Gibson, State Highway Administrator, DOT.

January 13, 2012

The third meeting of the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee during the 2011-2012 biennium was held Friday, January 13, 2012 at the North Carolina Ports Authority Maritime Building in Wilmington, North Carolina. The Committee first heard a presentation on Statewide logistics initiatives from Roberto Canales, Coordinator of Strategic Initiatives, DOT. Next, the Committee heard a presentation on the North Carolina maritime strategy study from Rachel Vandenberg, Project Manager, AECOM/URS/Eydo Consultant Team. Following this presentation, the Committee heard

an overview of the North Carolina State Ports Authority (NCSPA) from Jeff Miles, Chief Operating Officer, NCSPA, and Jeff Strader, Chief Financial Officer, NCSPA. The final presentation, a Ferry Division overview and comments on Hurricane Irene emergency response, was given by Harold Thomas, Ferry Division Director, DOT. Following these presentations, the Committee took tours of the Port of Wilmington Terminal and the Fort Fisher-Southport Ferry operation.

February 10, 2012

The fourth meeting of the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee during the 2011-2012 biennium was held Friday, February 10, 2012 in Room 1228 of the Legislative Building. The Committee first heard a rockslide update from Jon Nance, Chief Engineer, DOT. Next, the Committee heard an update on ferry system toll implementation from Paul Morris, Deputy Secretary for Transit, DOT. Following this presentation, the Committee heard project updates on the Charlotte Blue Line extension and Red Line regional rail from Carolyn Flowers, Chief Executive Officer, Charlotte Area Transit System, and Paul Morris, Deputy Secretary for Transit, DOT. Next, the Committee heard a presentation on capital grants for a rail line relocation project from Patrick Simmons, Director, Rail Division, DOT. Finally, the Committee heard from Garland Horton, President, Aberdeen and Rockfish Railroad, on short line railroads.

March 9, 2012

The fifth meeting of the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee during the 2011-2012 biennium was held Friday, March 9, 2012 in Room 1228 of the Legislative Building. The Committee first heard an overview of the North Carolina Railroad from Scott Saylor, President, North Carolina Railroad Company. Next, the Committee heard a series of reports required by provisions of the 2011 Budget Act:

- Study Exempting Motor Vehicles from Emissions Inspections (Section 28.24 of 2011 Budget), by Jimmie Massengill, Assistant Supervisor, License and Theft, Division of Motor Vehicles, and Mike Abraczinskas, Deputy Director, Division of Air Quality, DENR.
- An interim report on Regional Consolidation of Transit Systems (Section 28.21 of 2011 Budget), by Paul Morris, Deputy Secretary for Transit, DOT, and Fred Fravel, Vice President, KFH Group.
- Department of Revenue to Report on Motor Fuels Tax Auditor and Investigator Performance (Section 28.25 of 2011 Budget), by Linda Millsaps, Chief Operating Officer, Department of Revenue, Alan Woodard, Director of Examinations, and Jocelyn Andrews, Director of Tax Enforcement.
- Department of Revenue Study Reimbursement Process for Department of Correction Litter Pickup (Section 28.26 of 2011 Budget), by John Leskovec, Management Analyst, Office of State Budget and Management.

April 13, 2012

The sixth meeting of the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee during the 2011-2012 biennium was held April 13, 2012 in Room 1228 of the Legislative Building. The Committee first heard a presentation on inmate litter pickup from Joe Prater, Assistant Section Chief, Prisons Administrative Services, Department of Public Safety. Next, the Committee heard a presentation on metropolitan and rural planning organizations and their role in transportation planning from Mike Bruff, Manager, Transportation Planning Branch, DOT and Alpesh Patel, Senior Transportation Engineer, Strategic Planning Office, DOT. The Committee then heard a presentation on Metropolitan Planning Organization/Rural Planning Organization (MPO/RPO) survey results from Anna Cameron, Committee Staff. The Committee's meeting continued with a Corridor K update from Terry Gibson, State Highway Administrator, DOT. Following this presentation the Committee heard a proposed resolution in support of Corridor K, summarized by Giles S. Perry, Committee Staff, and voted to recommend the resolution to the General Assembly. Next, the Committee heard a background presentation on state retread tire purchases by Giles S. Perry, Committee Staff. The Committee then heard an explanation of five proposed bills on the following topics: state retread tire purchases; repeal of the restriction of unique color backgrounds for special license plates; ethics requirements for MPOs and RPOs; the DOT prioritization process; and changing the parameters for forming an RPO. Next, the Committee endorsed a recommendation for DOT to require increased meeting notice requirements for MPOs and RPOs. Following a brief discussion of ferry tolls, the Committee adjourned.

April 23, 2012

The seventh meeting of the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight during the 2011-2012 biennium was held April 23, 2012 in Room 1228 of the Legislative Building. The committee discussed_____. The Committee voted to approve this report.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

At its April 13, 2012 meeting, the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee voted to approve the following five proposed bills, and one Committee Resolution as recommendations to the General Assembly, and one Committee recommendation to the Department of Transportation. A copy of each proposed bill can be found in Appendix C, and the Resolution can be found in Appendix D.

Proposed Bills

1. Retread Tire Changes 2011-RWz-15
2. License Plate Background 2011-RWz-18
3. Ethics Requirement for MPOs/RPOs 2011-SUz-8
4. RPO Area Definition 2011-RWz-21
5. Require DOT Strategic Prioritization Process 2011-SUz-9

Committee Resolution

1. Resolution Supporting Construction of Corridor K

Committee Recommendation

1. The Committee recommends that the Department of Transportation require Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Rural Transportation Planning Organizations, when holding meetings of Transportation Advisory Committees or Technical Coordinating Committees, to:
 - require one week notice of meetings to the public for non-emergency meetings; and
 - place the public comment item on the agenda, preferably at the beginning of the meeting.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

2011-2012

President Pro Tempore of the Senate
Appointments:

Sen. Bill Rabon (Co-Chair)
Sen. Warren Daniel
Sen. Malcolm Graham
Sen. Rick Gunn
Sen. Kathy Harrington
Sen. Ralph Hise
Sen. Neal Hunt
Sen. Clark Jenkins
Sen. Jerry W. Tillman
Sen. Don Vaughan

Speaker of the House of Representatives
Appointments:

Rep. Phillip Frye (Co-Chair)
Rep. Grey Mills (Co-Chair)
Rep. Frank Iler (Vice Chair)
Rep. Rayne Brown
Rep. James W. Crawford, Jr.
Rep. Mitch Gillespie
Rep. Ric Killian
Rep. Daniel F. McComas
Rep. Bill Owens
Rep. Timothy L. Spear
Rep. Fred F. Steen, II

Advisory Members
Sen. Chris Carney

COMMITTEE CHARGE/STATUTORY AUTHORITY

§ 120-70.51. Purpose and powers of Committee.

- (a) The Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee may:
- (1) Review reports prepared by the Department of Transportation or any other agency of State government related, in any manner, to transportation, when those reports are required by any law.
 - (2) Monitor the funds deposited in and expenditures from the North Carolina Highway Trust Fund, the Highway Fund, the General Fund, or any other fund when those expenditures are related, in any manner, to transportation.
 - (3) Determine whether funds related, in any manner, to transportation are being spent in accordance with law.
 - (4) Determine whether any revisions are needed in the funding for a program for which funds in the Trust Fund, the Highway Fund, the General Fund, or any other fund when those expenditures are related, in any manner, to transportation may be used, including revisions needed to meet any statutory timetable or program.
 - (4a) Examine the importance of railroads and railroad infrastructure improvements to economic development in North Carolina, including improvements to short line railroads.
 - (4b) Study issues important to the future of passenger and freight rail service in North Carolina.
 - (4c) Determine methods to expedite property disputes between railroads and private landowners.
 - (4d) Study all aspects of the operation, structure, management, and long range plans of the North Carolina Railroad.
 - (5) Report to the General Assembly at the beginning of each regular session concerning its determinations of needed changes in the funding or operation of programs related, in any manner, to transportation.

These powers, which are enumerated by way of illustration, shall be liberally construed to provide for the maximum oversight by the Committee of all transportation matters in this State.

(b) The Committee may make interim reports to the General Assembly on matters for which it may report to a regular session of the General Assembly. A report to the General Assembly may contain any legislation needed to implement a recommendation of the Committee.

Additional responsibility of Committee

Pursuant to G.S. 143B-350(n), the Committee has the opportunity to review proposed appointments to the Board of Transportation for 30 days prior to the appointments becoming effective.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011

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D

BILL DRAFT 2011-RWz-15 [v.3] (02/21)

(THIS IS A DRAFT AND IS NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION)

3/22/2012 1:34:21 PM

Short Title: Retread Tire Changes.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ENSURE USE OF COST EFFICIENT RETREAD TIRES ON STATE
3 VEHICLES.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-249.1 reads as rewritten:

6 **"§ 115C-249.1. Purchase of tires for school buses; repair or refurbishment of tires**
7 **for school buses.**

8 (a) Definitions. – The following terms apply in this section:

9 (1) Critical tire information. – Tire brand name, tire line name, tire
10 identification numbers, load and pressure markings, tire size
11 designation, service descriptions such as load and speed ratings, and
12 other information and specifications placed on the original tire
13 sidewall by the original tire manufacturer.

14 (2) School bus. – A vehicle as defined in G.S. 20-4.01(27)d3. and
15 G.S. 20-4.01(27)d4. that is owned, rented, or leased by a local board of
16 education.

17 (b) Forensic Tire Standards. – In order to preserve critical tire information, a
18 local board of education shall procure and install for school buses only tires that possess
19 the original, unaltered, and uncovered tire sidewall. Furthermore, a local board of
20 education shall not execute a contract for the repair or refurbishment of tires for school
21 buses that provides for the removal, covering, or other alteration in any manner of the
22 critical tire information contained on the original tire sidewall.

23 (b1) Retread Rubber Formulation Specifications. – Contracts for school bus tires
24 executed on or after July 1, 2012 shall not include any specification for retread rubber
25 formulations.

26 (b2) Use of Pre-Cure Fuel Efficient Rated Retread Tires.- Contracts for school bus
27 tires executed on or after July 1, 2012 shall include specifications requiring pre-cure
28 fuel efficient rated retreaded tires, as certified by the retread rubber manufacturer.

29 (c) Tire Purchase and Contract Standards Applicability. – All contracts for the
30 purchase, repair, or refurbishment of tires for school buses, or contracts for the purchase
31 of products or services related to the repair or refurbishment of tires for school buses,

1 executed on or ~~after the date this section becomes effective~~ July 1, 2011 shall comply
2 with the provisions of this section.

3 (d) Exemption. – Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, a local board of
4 education that owns or has a legally binding contract in place for the future purchase of
5 tires having altered or covered sidewalls prior to ~~the date that this section becomes~~
6 ~~effective~~ July 1, 2011 shall perform its existing contractual obligations related thereto
7 and may continue to use those tires on school buses for the useful life of the retreaded
8 tire."

9 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 143-63.2 reads as rewritten:

10 **"§ 143-63.2. Purchase of tires for State vehicles; repair or refurbishment of tires**
11 **for State vehicles.**

12 (a) Definitions. – The following terms apply in this section:

13 (1) Critical tire information. – Tire brand name, tire line name, tire
14 identification numbers, load and pressure markings, tire size
15 designation, service descriptions such as load and speed ratings, and
16 other information and specifications placed on the original tire
17 sidewall by the original tire manufacturer.

18 (2) State vehicle. – Any vehicle owned, rented, or leased by the State, or
19 an institution, department, or agency of the State, that is driven on a
20 public road consistently at speeds greater than 30 miles per hour.

21 (b) Forensic Tire Standards. – In order to preserve critical tire information, the
22 Secretary of Administration and any institution, department, or agency of the State shall
23 only procure and install tires for State vehicles that possess the original, unaltered, and
24 uncovered tire sidewall. Furthermore, neither the Secretary of Administration nor any
25 institution, department, or agency of the State shall execute a contract for the repair or
26 refurbishment of tires for State vehicles that provides for the removal, covering, or other
27 alteration in any manner of the critical tire information contained on the original tire
28 sidewall.

29 (c) Tire Purchase and Contract Standards Applicability. – All contracts for the
30 purchase, repair, or refurbishment of tires for State vehicles, or contracts for the
31 purchase of products or services related to the repair or refurbishment of tires for State
32 vehicles, executed on or after ~~the date this section becomes effective~~ July 1, 2011 shall
33 comply with the provisions of this section.

34 (d) Exemption. – Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the State or any
35 institution, department, or agency of the State that owns or has a legally binding
36 contract in place for the future purchase of tires having altered or covered sidewalls
37 prior to ~~the date that this section becomes effective~~ July 1, 2011 shall perform its
38 existing contractual obligations related thereto and may continue to use those tires on
39 State vehicles for the useful life of the retreaded tire."

40 **SECTION 3.** The Division of Purchase and Contract shall not extend its
41 current contract for retreading of tires beyond the 90 day time period allowed under the
42 contract.

43 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law.
44

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011

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D

BILL DRAFT 2011-RWz-18 [v.6] (04/09)

(THIS IS A DRAFT AND IS NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION)
4/12/2012 3:17:13 PM

Short Title: License Plate Background.

(Public)

Sponsors: .

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE CONTINUED ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL LICENSE
PLATES WITH UNIQUE PLATE BACKGROUND DESIGNS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 20-63(b) reads as rewritten:

"(b) Every license plate must display the registration number assigned to the vehicle for which it is issued, the name of the State of North Carolina, which may be abbreviated, and the year number for which it is issued or the date of expiration. A plate issued for a commercial vehicle, as defined in G.S. 20-4.2(1), and weighing 26,001 pounds or more, must bear the word "commercial," unless the plate is a special registration plate authorized in G.S. 20-79.4 or the commercial vehicle is a trailer or is licensed for 6,000 pounds or less. The plate issued for vehicles licensed for 7,000 pounds through 26,000 pounds must bear the word "weighted," unless the plate is a special registration plate authorized in G.S. 20-79.4.

A-Except as otherwise provided in this section, a registration plate issued by the Division for a private passenger vehicle or for a private hauler vehicle licensed for 6,000 pounds or less shall be a "First in Flight" plate. A "First in Flight" plate shall have the words "First in Flight" printed at the top of the plate above all other letters and numerals. The background of the plate shall depict the Wright Brothers biplane flying over Kitty Hawk Beach, with the plane flying slightly upward and to the right.

(b1) The following special registration plates do not have to be a "First in Flight" plate as provided in subsection (b) of this section. The design of the plates that are not "First in Flight" plates must be approved by the Division and the State Highway Patrol for clarity and ease of identification. ~~When the Division registers a vehicle or renews the registration of a vehicle on or after July 1, 2015, the Division must send the owner a replacement special license plate in a standardized format in accordance with subsection (b) of this section and G.S. 20-79.4(a3).~~

- (1) Friends of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.
- (2) Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.
- (3) Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation.
- (4) Friends of the Appalachian Trail.

- 1 (5) NC Coastal Federation.
- 2 (6) In God We Trust.
- 3 (7) Stock Car Racing Theme.
- 4 (8) Buddy Pelletier Surfing Foundation.
- 5 (9) Guilford Battleground Company.
- 6 (10) National Wild Turkey Federation.
- 7 (11) North Carolina Aquarium Society.
- 8 (12) First in Forestry.
- 9 (13) North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation.
- 10 (14) NC Trout Unlimited.
- 11 (15) Ducks Unlimited.
- 12 (16) Lung Cancer Research.
- 13 (17) NC State Parks.
- 14 (18) Support Our Troops.
- 15 (19) US Equine Rescue League.
- 16 (20) Fox Hunting.
- 17 (21) Back Country Horsemen of North Carolina.
- 18 (22) Hospice Care.
- 19 (23) Home Care and Hospice.
- 20 (24) NC Tennis Foundation.
- 21 (25) AIDS Awareness.
- 22 (26) Donate Life.
- 23 (27) Farmland Preservation.
- 24 (28) Travel and Tourism.
- 25 (29) Battle of Kings Mountain.
- 26 (30) NC Civil War.
- 27 (31) North Carolina Zoological Society.
- 28 (32) United States Service Academy.
- 29 (33) Carolina Raptor Center.
- 30 (34) Carolinas Credit Union Foundation.
- 31 (35) North Carolina State Flag.
- 32 (36) NC Mining.
- 33 (37) Coastal Land Trust.
- 34 (38) ARTS NC.
- 35 (39) Choose Life.
- 36 (40) North Carolina Green Industry Council.
- 37 (41) NC Horse Council.
- 38 (42) Core Sound Waterfowl Museum and Heritage Center."
- 39 **SECTION 2.** Section 1.1 of S.L. 2011-392 is repealed.
- 40 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2012.
- 41

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011**

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D

BILL DRAFT 2011-SUz-8 [v.3] (03/21)

**(THIS IS A DRAFT AND IS NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION)
4/12/2012 5:32:06 PM**

Short Title: Ethics Requirements for MPOs/RPOs.

(Public)

Sponsors: .

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS
AND RURAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS ARE
SUBJECT TO THE STATE GOVERNMENT ETHICS ACT.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 136-202 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

"(e) A Metropolitan Planning Organization shall be treated as a board for purposes of Chapter 138A of the General Statutes."

SECTION 2. G.S. 136-211 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

"(e) **Ethics Requirements.** – A Rural Transportation Planning Organization shall be treated as a board for purposes of Chapter 138A of the General Statutes."

SECTION 3. This act becomes effective January 1, 2013.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011

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D

BILL DRAFT 2011-RWz-21 [v.2] (04/12)

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4/17/2012 1:54:57 PM

Short Title: RPO Area Definition.

(Public)

Sponsors: .

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO CHANGE THE DEFINITION ON AN AREA THAT CAN BE
3 REPRESENTED BY A RURAL PLANNING ORIGINATION.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 136-211 reads as rewritten:

6 "**§ 136-211. Department authorized to establish Rural Transportation Planning**
7 **Organizations.**

8 (a) Authorization. – The Department of Transportation is authorized to form
9 Rural Transportation Planning Organizations.

10 (b) Area Represented. – Rural Transportation Planning Organizations shall
11 include representatives from contiguous areas in three to fifteen counties, ~~with or~~ a total
12 population of the entire area represented of at least 50,000 persons according to the
13 latest population estimate of the ~~Office of State Planning~~ Office of State Budget and
14 Management. Noncontiguous counties adjacent to the same Metropolitan Planning
15 Organization may form a Rural Transportation Planning Organization. Areas already
16 included in a Metropolitan Planning Organization shall not be included in the area
17 represented by a Rural Transportation Planning Organization.

18 (c) Membership. – The Rural Transportation Planning Organization shall consist
19 of local elected officials or their designees and representatives of local transportation
20 systems in the area as agreed to by all parties in a memorandum of understanding.

21 (d) Formation; Memorandum of Understanding. – The Department shall notify
22 local elected officials and representatives of local transportation systems around the
23 State of the opportunity to form Rural Transportation Planning Organizations. The
24 Department shall work cooperatively with interested local elected officials, their
25 designees, and representatives of local transportation systems to develop a proposed
26 area, membership, functions, and responsibilities of a Rural Transportation Planning
27 Organization. The agreement of all parties shall be included in a memorandum of
28 understanding approved by the membership of a proposed Rural Transportation
29 Planning Organization and the Secretary of the Department of Transportation."

30 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.
31

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011

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BILL DRAFT 2011-SUz-9 [v.3] (03/21)

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4/17/2012 3:06:02 PM

Short Title: Require DOT Strategic Prioritization Process.

(Public)

Sponsors: .

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO
3 DEVELOP AND UTILIZE A STRATEGIC PRIORITIZATION PROCESS FOR
4 SELECTION OF TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 136-18 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

7 "(42) The Department shall develop and utilize a process for selection of
8 transportation projects that is based on professional standards in order
9 to most efficiently use limited resources to benefit all citizens of the
10 State. The strategic prioritization process should be a systematic, data
11 driven process that includes a combination of quantitative data,
12 qualitative input, and multimodal characteristics, and should include
13 local input. The Department shall develop a process for standardizing
14 or approving local methodology used in Metropolitan Planning
15 Organization and Rural Transportation Planning Organization
16 prioritization."

17 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

**RESOLUTION
SUPPORTING THE CONSTRUCTION OF CORRIDOR K**

April 13, 2012

Whereas, Corridor K is a proposed four lane highway that is part of the Appalachian Development Highway System approved by Congress under the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965; and

Whereas, the Appalachian Development Highway System was designed to generate economic development in previously isolated areas, supplement the interstate system, connect Appalachia to the interstate system, and provide access to areas within the Region as well as to markets in the rest of the nation; and

Whereas, the portion of Corridor K (U.S. 74) located in Cherokee, Graham, and Swain Counties has not been completed; and

Whereas, completion of Corridor K is vitally important to the western mountain communities of the State, because of its impact on economic development, employment, tourism, public safety, and access to emergency facilities in the region; **Now, therefore**,

Be it resolved by the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee:

The Committee finds that Corridor K is a critical missing link in the North Carolina and Appalachian Development Highway Systems, supports its completion as soon as possible, and urges the North Carolina Department of Transportation and the federal government to make all efforts to expedite its construction.