



## **NC FIRST Commission Report & NCDOT Updates 1.19.2021**

ACEC/NC Members:

### **NC First Commission Issues Final Report**

On January 8, 2021 the NC First Commission issued its Final Report and the panel recommends boosting transportation spending by 40% through the next decade to improve “mediocre” infrastructure of highways, railroads and transit as the state grows and current revenue sources dwindle.

The North Carolina First Commission, formed nearly two years ago by Gov. Roy Cooper’s then-transportation secretary, suggests several options to locate at least \$2 billion more annually to address challenges brought by a surging population, congestion and aging secondary roads. Increased sales taxes and fees at both the state and local levels would provide the biggest monetary benefit. Combined state and federal spending for North Carolina is now about \$5 billion annually.

The 173-page [report](#), approved by the commission of current and former elected officials, corporate and health industry leaders and academics, also recommends expanding into new money-raising ideas to reflect fuel-efficient cars and e-commerce. All the extra revenue should raise the state’s infrastructure condition to “good,” or the second-best reading in a five-level evaluation model developed by the North Carolina Chamber Foundation and N.C. State University.

### **NC Chamber Destination 2030 Initiative**

The NC Chamber announced the release of a new study conducted by TRIP, a national transportation research group, that calculates the financial costs of driving on deficient roads for the average North Carolina motorist – both statewide and in major metro areas. The NC Chamber and TRIP will partner for the release of that report on Jan. 27. You can access the NC Chamber Destination 2030 site: <https://ncchamber.com/destination2030/>.

### **NCDOT Updates “Project Move Forward” List**

For Preliminary Engineering (PE) projects NCDOT will be moving forward with all Central Let STIP projects (DDRL, Raleigh Let and DB) that have a let date up to and including SFY '25 (through June 30, 2025), as well as Division Let STIP projects up to and including SFY '23 (June 30, 2023). Please note that even though PE is moving does not mean that ROW and Utilities is also on any given project. These

units will continue coordinating and will maintain their own lists. New Lists can be found on the NCDOT Project Management website:

<https://connect.ncdot.gov/projects/Project-Management/Pages/default.aspx>.

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