

Legislative Update for Piedmont Transportation Professionals

January 14, 2016



N.C. Metro Mayors

- 34 larger cities in NC
- Founded in 2001 by then Mayors McCrory, Tennyson, Weatherly, Kluttz, and more
- Focus on economic development, transportation, and crime
- Current Chair – Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer
- Executive Director – Julie White

2015 Transportation Session



H97 Budget Bill

- Sec. 29.5a requires NCDOT to charge locals for changes they request that are not safety related to a project
- Sec. 29.17D removes the percentage of the gas tax that paid Powell Bill and move to an appropriation of \$147.5m a year.
- Sec. 29.41 limits the Strategic Transportation Investment spending on light rail to \$500k. The House subsequently passed S605 to remove cap, but it has not passed the Senate and remains alive for the short session.
- Sec. 29.27A gives each city the ability to levy up to a \$30 municipal vehicle fee and requires they spend no more than \$5 on public transit, \$5 on any other lawful purpose, and the remainder on public streets.
- Sec. 29.15A raises the cap on the number of turnpike projects in the State
- Sec. 29.16m splits \$89m equally among each county for road maintenance (a House provision the body amended out on the floor)
- Sec. 29.20a offers cities tiered help with utility relocation costs

NCDOT Report

- <http://ncdot.gov/contact/> or 1-877-DOT-4YOU
- 2 days on potholes
- clogged culverts, damaged shoulders, drainage issues, highway debris, and bad guardrails, traffic signals and traffic signs

Rural Rumblings on Trans \$

- WRAL: “But Republicans and Democrats representing rural areas pushed back – hard. Brown called it “the biggest fight I’ve ever seen,” blasting urban counties whose lobbyists have been leaning heavily on lawmakers on both sides of the aisle. “They act like the world is ending, and they’re getting all the money” from economic incentives and transportation, Brown said. “These small counties don’t get any of that money. None.” “Gosh, guys, don’t be so greedy! Give some. Give these counties some. Why do you want it all? Just give them something!” Brown exclaimed. “That’s what this bill does. I’ve never see anything like this in my life up here.”

STI Attacks

- Currently, three of the four House Transportation budget chairs hail from the coast
- Senators remain somewhat firm
- Rural legislators unhappy
- I-77 revolt

Studies

- S119 – Study of unpaved state roads – NCDOT to conduct survey of paved and unpaved roads that are open to the public but not current a part of the state system. Report June 2016. \$1m NR to improve them. State doesn't have to continue to improve them in the future.
- S581 Study Subdivision Streets/Traffic Calming Devices passed – DOT to study requirements for DOT to accept subdivision streets into highway system and report by Feb 2016 – HOAs need 60% of property owners rather than 70% for traffic calming
- H232 Study Bike Safety - Visibility (clothing or other reflective gear) and lighting requirements, operating position in roadway, informal group rides on rural roadways require city permit

Issues that Remain

- Road Diets in H44 not gone for good
- S396 Limit number of studies MPOs – didn't pass – Tarte
-

Torbett Study Committee

- Mega Projects: I-77 and I-95
- Ports
- Tech advances in infrastructure development
- Autonomous vehicles

Another Bond?

- Governor is referencing another bond
- Could include transportation

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