

2017 Legislative Priorities

- Assist Tier 1 Counties with K-12 School Construction
- Transportation Funding
- Construction Workforce Development
- Economic Development



North Carolina Design & Construction Coalition

2017 Legislative Priorities



AIA
North Carolina



**Professional Engineers
of North Carolina**

A state society of the National Society of Professional Engineers

ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of North Carolina

INVEST NC

The North Carolina design and construction community, represented by its four largest membership organizations, and more than 50,000 professionals, call upon the General Assembly to make necessary investments in North Carolina's future with the following initiatives:

- Assist Tier 1 Counties with K-12 School Construction
- Transportation Funding
- Construction Workforce Development
- Economic Development

Assist Tier 1 Counties with K-12 School Construction

Rural counties have faced increasing difficulties in generating enough revenue to keep pace with their K-12 school facility needs and replacing outdated schools. There are a variety of ideas to assist our most needy counties (generally know as Tier 1). The concepts below are all current ideas and/or actual bills under consideration in the General Assembly.

- Ensure open solicitation and competition for K-12 public private partnership projects
- Sales tax flexibility for K-12 school construction
HB 333
SB 166
- Expand Lottery advertising to allow for increased Lottery revenue for K-12 school construction
SB 234
- Support a statewide bond of \$1.8 billion for K-12 school construction

Transportation Funding

As auto efficiency and changing driving habits have contributed to our decline in a stable source of transportation funding. North Carolina will see a 43 percent increase in population – 13.5 million by 2040 – placing further strain on the transportation network. To have a safe and efficient transportation network that fosters economic prosperity and grows jobs, our current way of doing business doesn't add up. If we find no new ways to raise transportation revenue, we face a projected \$60 billion gap in funding by 2040.

- Long-term funding solutions
- Diversify revenue sources
 - ✓ Highway use tax
 - ✓ Redirect rental car taxes
 - ✓ Redirect car parts tax
- Remove light rail cap
SB 170

Construction Workforce Development

The construction industry in North Carolina is having the most difficult time of any industry finding qualified workers. A national survey finds that nearly 2/3 of the contractors are facing this challenge. Hiring challenges delay projects, drive up wages, affects project quality and stifles economic growth. Public schools have all but stopped promoting construction jobs in career counseling and its clear the industry has an image problem when trying to attract young workers.

- Support REBUILD Construction, a \$200,000 state marketing campaign to young people
- Support Career Coaches, a \$1.1 million Community College program
- Support Workforce Training, a \$15.3 million Community College program for short term training courses

Economic Development

North Carolina's economic fortunes are truly a tale of two states. Leading economists say that much of North Carolina's post-recession growth is bypassing the so-called "routine" middle-income vocations and exacerbating the state's growing regional gap and income inequality. Diminished tools used by economic developers over the last few years has led to significant challenges to North Carolina's economic dominance in the southeast region.

- Support increase in annual Repair & Renovation budget
- Support the continued work of the Economic Development Partnership & Dept of Commerce
- Support renewed incentive programs like JDIG, Film Tax Credits, Renewable Energy Tax Credits, etc.
- Fix and restore the NC brand
HB 186