



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

April 12, 2019

VIA HAND DELIVERY

The Hon. Tim Moore
Speaker of the House

The Hon. Phil Berger
Senate President Pro Tempore

The Hon. Dan Blue
Senate Democratic Leader

The Hon. Darren Jackson
House Democratic Leader

Dear Speaker Moore, Sen. Berger, Sen. Blue and Rep. Jackson:

Thank you for the support you have shown for transportation infrastructure in North Carolina. While we sometimes disagree on issues, transportation has been one of the areas where we often find common ground. Because of this we have been able to accomplish great things together.

As you are aware, members of my team have talked with legislative staff in past months regarding the serious impact weather--related disasters have had on transportation. The severe and unpredictable weather events here have required the state Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to pay for emergency repairs from existing funds and then wait for federal reimbursement.

In addition to reimbursements owed the Department for Hurricane Matthew, NCDOT has expended more than \$250 million this fiscal year for Hurricane Florence, Hurricane Michael, snowstorms, as well as rock and mud slides following significant rainfall. Approximately 1,600 roads were damaged in Hurricane Florence alone, but NCDOT has worked tirelessly to reopen all but one of those roads since September.

NCDOT's figures show it spent more in declared disaster-related repairs in the past three years than in the previous 12 years of weather-related repairs *combined*. While the NCDOT is working to maintain a fiscally responsible level of cash-on-hand, the slow rate of federal reimbursements will require the Department to slow future highway projects as it awaits additional funds.

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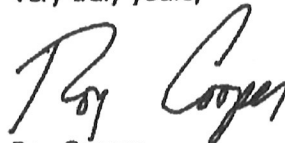
NCDOT has briefed me on these challenges and I support Secretary Jim Trogdon's efforts to decrease impacts on transportation. NCDOT has briefed industry partners as well as key legislators on the impact of disaster recovery, and both are supportive as well.

There is no tool to allow the NCDOT to borrow funds for operational shortfalls due to extraordinary disaster costs. Working with Secretary Trogdon, I encourage you to come up with a solution that will allow DOT to continue building new infrastructure to accommodate the growth our state is experiencing. At the same time, NCDOT will review its cash management strategies to accommodate the increasing frequency and severity of storms.

Our state's state transportation network is key to our economic well-being and quality of life. Thank you for your support of North Carolina's transportation work.

With kind regards, I am

Very truly yours,



Roy Cooper

RAC/sm

cc: The Honorable Jim Davis
The Honorable Tom McInnis
The Honorable Frank Iler
The Honorable Michele Presnell
The Honorable Phil Shepard
The Honorable John Torbett
The Honorable Chuck McGrady
