



No Tolls on 540 <notollson540@gmail.com>

Toll Roads - like Garbage Disposals, a Mistake

1 message

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Wed, Apr 16, 2008 at 1:34 PM

To: charles.meeker@ci.raleigh.nc.us, Citycouncilor@ci.raleigh.nc.us, harold.weinbrecht@townofcary.org, rwilliams@garnernc.gov, mayor@townofclaytonnc.org, rgsears@aol.com, keith.weatherly@apexnc.org, Bill.Bell@durhamnc.gov, jfaulkner@ci.morrisville.nc.us, jbyrne@fuquay-varina.org, russellkillen@parkerpoe.com, mayor@wakeforestnc.gov, crussell@wakeforestnc.gov, dmoss@cityofcreedmoor.org, cianc002@mc.duke.edu, amhartel@ncsu.edu, wbowman@dot.state.nc.us, jhopkins@dot.state.nc.us, tgibson@dot.state.nc.us, rggreene@dot.state.nc.us, Ed.Johnson@ci.raleigh.nc.us, Andrew.Henry@durhamnc.gov, Ellen.Beckmann@durhamnc.gov, dmcamp@bizec.rr.com, tdenning@dot.state.nc.us, stan@outerbanksrentals.com, mblount3@theblountlawfirm.com, cam@becajun.com, lanny.wilson@ncturnpike.org, gust@suddenlink.net, napro1@earthlink.net, douggalyon@dot.state.nc.us, grk@sbuildersinc.com, nancy.dunn@aladdintravel.com, perkins@ncat.edu, cowellm@aol.com, tdennis@semtruss.com, arnoldlakey@charter.net, judgebcollier@bellsouth.net, athornburg@email.wcu.edu, burrell151@verizon.net, ltippett@dot.state.nc.us, psafra@safranlaw.com, anthonyfox@parkerpoe.com, sang_hamilton@yahoo.com, bill.lackey@jwhomes.com, robert.spencer@ncturnpike.org, robert.teer@ncturnpike.org, david.redwine@ncturnpike.org, jennifer.harris@ncturnpike.org, sig@sighutchinson.com, jeffmerritt@clancytheys.com, mdawson@triangletransit.org, bmildwurf@wral.com, lorenzo.perez@newsobserver.com, news@news14.com

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TO:
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Cary - Harold Weinbrecht
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Holly Springs - Dick Sears
Apex - Keith Weatherly
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NCTA - Lyndo Tippet, Perry Safran, Anthony Fox, Sang Hamilton Sr., William Lackey Jr., Robert Spencer Jr., Robert Teer Jr., E. David Redwin, Jennifer Harris
TTA - Sig Hutchinson, Jeff Merritt, Michelle Dawson
WRAL - Bruce Mildwurf
N&O - Lorenzo Perez
New14 - News

CC: NC House of Representatives, NC Senators, NC Governor Mike Easley

FOR: Public Record, CAMPO meeting 4/16/2008

Just about one year ago, CAMPO and various others gave a nod for the NCTA (Turnpike Authority) to move forward with their proposed toll roads, believing the NCTA's statement "toll road or no road". A LOT has changed in just one year. Disturbing facts about the NCDOT financial miss-management have finally become public news and candidates for Governor of NC see transportation overhauls as part of their challenge. STAC (in the Triangle area) was formed to look at our transportation future and Raleigh, NC banned Garbage Disposals. (My apologies Mayor Meeker, that's a stab at your account, but I hope I got some laughs.) Everyone is greatly appreciated that you and the City Council stood up and admitted that mistake and have reversed that ban.

Toll roads in NC are also a grave Mistake. No Tolls on 540.org encourages CAMPO and all involved to reconsider your support of the proposed toll road in the Triangle area now currently known as the "Triangle Expressway". We ask you to reverse your support of toll roads in the Triangle and NC and open your eyes and ears to the reasons and suggestions for solutions:

1. NC is/was the "Good Road State". Encourage the NC Legislature to NOT approve the GAP funding the NCTA is asking for and NOT allow a public/private partnership (a private investor wants nothing more than Return On Investment, otherwise known as Profit). Allow the NEW Governor and his new administration to tackle our transportation needs head on. Don't allow an outgoing administration to leave us with the poor decision of allowing toll roads. We want to retain the "Good Road State" title do we not? Let's not become another "Toll Road State".
2. NCDOT Overhaul - As mentioned above, task the new Governor and his administration with this challenge. If not mistaken, there is an equity plan for NCDOT funds in NC, meaning rural areas get the same funding as populated areas. This leaves us with large, 4 lane highways where populations are staggeringly low, while other 4 lane highways where populations are exploding can't handle the traffic load. Put the money where the need exists.
3. STAC (Special Transit Advisory Commission) was charged with looking into our transportation future. Their proposed plan and draft report - nothing but rail and buses. Are roads not also part of a transportation infrastructure? STAC wants to ask Triangle area taxpayers to approve a half cent sales tax increase and an

increase on annual vehicle fees to pay for their proposed rail and bus plan. All the while, we have a toll road built on *part* of a loop? So CAMPO is going to allow us to be faced with the potential for Higher Taxes, vehicles fees AND tolls? Why doesn't the STAC plan include the I-540 loop and NC 147 extension to allow for the higher taxes and vehicle fees go towards completion of those roads without tolls? I personally support mass transit, BUT let's have a completed TOLL FREE I-540 loop and NC 147 extension BEFORE we build rail. Those completed roads will drastically change regional traffic patterns.

4. Senate Bill 1381 - <http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/Sessions/2005/Bills/Senate/HTML/S1381v6.html> Remember this?

The currently open section of I-540 (now called NC 540) that runs about 4-5 miles from I-40 south to NC 55 in RTP was built and paid for with our NC tax dollars and other funding. Senate Bill 1381 allows this section of highway to be converted to a tolled road, law specifically changed in favor of the NCTA and shady by design in the eyes of the public. That's also a double dip on taxpayers and should NOT be allowed. We have already paid for this section of road. Maybe the Garbage Disposal rule fits here for the Senate?

5. End the Highway Trust Fund transfer - this is already being discussed and proposed to be phased out?

6. Double all traffic fines and penalties - If not mistaken, currently (by NC Constitutional law) 100% of the money raised in this fashion goes towards education. If these fines and penalties are doubled, 50% could go towards education, meaning education gets the same amount of money they are already receiving and 50% could go towards transportation funding. Education funding is not harmed and transportation funding is achieved. This is a great solution that only impacts those who are already breaking traffic laws and does not impose higher taxes on NC residents. Being Constitutional law, this would have to go to public vote? Perfect for the November ballot (having the NC Legislature HOLD and follow #1 above by NOT allowing the NCTA to move forward at this time).

7. Pressure the Federal Highway Administration to own up to its promise. NC is a giving state. For every dollar NC puts towards the Federal Highway program, \$0.92 is promised back in return. A [presentation by the NCTA](#), slide 17, shows we are only getting \$0.88 back, and we've heard rumors of less than that actually coming back. The Federal Highway Administration should be held to its promise.

8. Make sure we are imposing proper and sufficient impact taxes on developers, including expanding road infrastructure at their cost in areas of development.

9. Be aware that *if* tolling is allowed to go forward, a cashless system brings up the issue of environmental justice. Low income households do not have the ability to receive credit if an account can be applied for and created and/or would likely default on invoices if billed monthly, a burden not deserved.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. David McDowell, Raleigh native and Founder of No Tolls on [540.org](#) welcomes any and all discussion of this matter and encourages more thought from all of you on, beyond and above the mentioned items in this letter. Please submit this letter into the public record. No Tolls on [540.org](#) is firmly against the NCTA's proposed Triangle Expressway toll project. We also want to enable NC Legislators to know there ARE viable funding options, as we have mentioned a couple. Toll roads are not the solution.

David McDowell
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<http://www.notollson540.org>
