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**NC Go! MAKES SWEEPING PROJECT DELIVERY RECOMMENDATIONS**  
*Coalition urges the state to adopt priorities as their own*

**GREENSBORO, NC** – *NC Go!* today unveiled its sweeping recommendations in response to the N.C. Department of Transportation’s (NCDOT) Project Delivery Study Final Report. The coalition called for the independent study in 2003.

*NC Go!* co-chair, Bill Carstarphen, highlighted the group’s recommendations during their Annual Meeting and Transportation Dinner in Greensboro.

“All those who are members and with us tonight should hear me loud and clear,” said Carstarphen. “We all have a responsibility to ensure all those involved in the project delivery process must do just that – deliver. I challenge each and every one of you – no matter your role in the project delivery process – to work together to make this course of action a success.”

The priorities set forth by *NC Go!* include:

1. **Determining how other states are doing business.**  
*NC Go!* recommends that the state survey other states such as Mississippi, Texas, Florida and Kentucky – as well as neighboring states – to learn how they have reduced the length of environmental assessments.
2. **Taking a closer look at North Carolina’s requirements vs. federal requirements in the permitting process**  
*NC Go!* recommends the state take a specific look at all requirements and ask if any significant value or benefit is received from maintaining standards that exceed federal requirements.
3. **Establishing appropriate delegation of authority between NCDOT, the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and other agencies involved in the project delivery process**  
*NC Go!* recommends the role of each agency be examined. Where appropriate, responsibilities should be re-delegated in order to use limited resources more efficiently and effectively. This review should include the issuance of permits and the implementation of modifications.
4. **Creating agency guidelines and milestones for project delivery**  
*NC Go!* supports the establishment of one group of guidelines and milestones set by both Governor Easley and the Secretary of NCDOT. Clear targets and consistent criteria for measuring performance should be established and incorporated into each agency’s plans as appropriate.

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During his remarks, Carstarphen also highlighted several projects across the state that have been delayed significantly as a result of North Carolina's project delivery process. Labeled as "problem projects," they include:

- ***Asheville Connector***  
***Buncombe County***  
Started – 1995  
Planning process – More than 12 years
- ***Bonner Bridge***  
***Dare County***  
Started – 1990  
Planning process – 16 years
- ***Mid-Currituck Bridge***  
***Currituck County***  
Started – 1994  
Planning process – 14 years
- ***NC 24***  
***Cumberland, Sampson and Duplin Counties***  
Started – December 12, 1989  
Planning process – 16.5 years
- ***US 17***  
***Jones and Onslow Counties***  
Started – 1995  
Planning process – 12 years
- ***US 17, Washington Bypass***  
***Beaufort County***  
Started – 1992  
Planning process – 12 years
- ***US 321, Blowing Rock***  
Started – 1989  
Planning process – 16 years
- ***US 52, Rowan County***  
Started – 1994  
Planning process – 11 years
- ***US 70, Clayton Bypass***  
***Johnston County***  
Started – April 15, 1991  
Planning process – 14 years
- ***US 70, Havelock Bypass***  
***Craven County***  
Started – 1992  
Started over – 2004  
Planning process – 14 years
- ***US 74, Monroe Bypass***  
***Union County***  
Started – 1994  
Planning process – 12 years
- ***US 74, Shelby Bypass***  
***Cleveland County***  
Started – October 14, 1994  
Planning process – 11 years
- ***Winston Salem Loop***  
***Forsyth County***  
Started – 1988  
Planning process – 16 years

“The frightening thing is that these timeframes only encompass the design and planning stages,” said Carstarphen. “We must significantly overhaul this process or other projects will run into similar problems. This will hurt the state tremendously.”

*NC Go!* was launched in 2001 with fewer than 10 members. Today, the coalition has more than 100 members representing more than 22,000 businesses and organizations and 1 million individuals across the state. It is the only diverse statewide organization fighting to relieve traffic congestion and increasing transportation funding.

Since its inception, the organization has worked to protect dedicated Trust Fund money, expand Highway Trust Fund flexibility, maintain efficient cash management practices, terminate annual transfers from the Highway Trust Fund to the General Fund and increase multi-modal transportation funding. *NC Go!* has been instrumental in the passage of several pieces of legislation such as the Cash Management Bill and NC Moving Ahead - branded by some at the General Assembly as the “*NC Go!* Bill.”