

Report Card for North Carolina's Infrastructure – 2009 Update
ROADS

Overview

The Report Card released in 2006 stated that funding for roads in the state would be at least \$29 billion short of needs over the next 25 years. Shortly after the release, the then North Carolina Secretary of Transportation stated that ASCE's estimate was woefully short, and the shortfall was probably closer to \$60 billion. Funding has decreased over the past few years, and congestion on urban and rural roads has increased. **As a result, the state's roads infrastructure has been given a grade of D-.**

Progress and Recommendations

- The previous administration set up a state-wide task force to explore solutions to the transportation problems facing North Carolina. The task force recommended several changes, including alternative funding sources not previously utilized, such as the Vehicle-Mile Traveled tax (VMT) as an alternative to the current per-gallon gas tax.
- The current administration has put a new and different emphasis on the office of the Secretary of Transportation, which may help solve some long-standing problems such as disparities of funding projects in different regions of the state.
- Eliminate the annual transfer of funds from the Highway Trust Fund to the General Fund. (It is being phased out, but should be eliminated immediately.)
- Explore nontraditional funding sources (Public-Private Partnership, for example).
- Utilize nontraditional delivery methods, such as Design Build, whereby the design and construction are awarded under one contract so construction can begin before design is complete.
- Encourage a shift from prescriptive specifications to performance-based specifications.

Grade Breakdown

Pavement Condition (Less than 70% of roads are rated Good or Very Good)	D	(30%)
Funding (Up to \$60 billion shortfall over the next 25 years)	F	(30%)
Congestion (Ranked 48 of 50 in Urban Interstate Congestion)	D-	(20%)
Safety (10% more fatalities per 100 Million Vehicle Miles than US average)	D	(20%)
Overall:	D-	