
From: Veldran, Katherine
Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2016 10:26 AM
To: Haley, Nikki
Cc: Patel, Swati; Godfrey, Rob; Mottel, Haley
Subject: FW: ICYMI: August 18, 2016 SCDOT Commission Meeting

FYI - Below is feedback from Senator Grooms.

From: Larry Grooms [mailto:vote@grooms@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 23, 2016 10:42 PM
To: Mottel, Haley
Cc: Veldran, Katherine
Subject: Re: ICYMI: August 18, 2016 SCDOT Commission Meeting

Thank you for sharing this video as it tells the story better than any written description.

I am so proud of Clifton for staying the course and so disappointed in the others.

On its face this is bad, but what makes it really really bad is that the commissioners do not even understand that they did anything wrong.

Larry Grooms

On Aug 23, 2016, at 9:20 AM, Mottel, Haley <HaleyMottel@gov.sc.gov> wrote:

Last week, Department of Transportation commissioners approved, in a 7-1 vote, more than \$23 million for “low-priority projects” in one congressman’s district. (Post and Courier, 8/18/2016)

For example, commissioners approved millions of dollars for a university beautification project that would revamp the sidewalks and streets behind the Statehouse in Columbia instead of using these funds to improve roads, interstates and bridges identified as high priority statewide projects by state officials. Some have criticized this as “an example of politics coming before actual highway needs.” (Associated Press, 8/18/2016)

During last week's meeting, Commissioner Clifton Parker asked DOT Secretary Christy Hall: “Do you happen to have anything that would tell us...what you would do with this money if you had your choice of a list?”

Secretary Hall’s answer: “We would likely apply the funds to an interstate resurfacing project...for fiscal year 2017.”

What we saw commissioners do was an example of everything wrong with our roads system and why we so desperately need reform. The wishes of politicians are not more important than projects prioritized by the Department of Transportation.

You will find video of DOT commissioners debating whether to fund sidewalk beautification projects instead of repaving interstates and fixing potholes here: <https://youtu.be/wKZp5RISzY>

Please take a moment to watch the video clip, and, then, share it with anyone who agrees that the people of South Carolina deserve better.

Sincerely,
Haley

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