

From: Kim Jackson <KimJackson@schouse.gov>

To:

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Subject: Chairman White and Speaker Pro Tempore Lucas announce Transportation Infrastructure & Management Ad-Hoc Committee

Attachments: DOT Study Committee Agenda Draft Meeting 091614.docx

**Office of the Speaker
SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Greg Foster

(803) 734-3125

gregfoster@schouse.gov

Improving Our State's Infrastructure: Road Funding & DOT Reform

Speaker Pro Tempore Lucas and Chairman White appoint Special Infrastructure & Management Committee to address both road funding & agency operations

(Columbia, SC) – To help identify steps our state can take to improve the conditions of our state's roadways, [House Speaker Pro Tempore Jay Lucas](#) – under his authority as Acting House Speaker – in conjunction with [Chairman Brian White](#) of the House Ways & Means Committee today announced the formation of a Special Ad Hoc Committee. The Infrastructure & Management Committee will work to identify funding sources that can be dedicated to improving our roadways and will focus on what reforms at SCDOT are necessary to ensure those funds are being managed in a way that best addresses our infrastructure needs.

"It's not all a lack of dollars, it's not all mismanagement but the two go hand-in-hand and somewhere in this equation, something's not adding up right," said Speaker Pro Tempore Lucas. "It's time we get to the bottom of all this, because all South Carolinians are far too familiar with the end results this has produced so far – less than satisfactory roads."

"This is the number one issue facing our state. Our roads impact everyone. It's a diverse problem, affecting all areas of the state, and we need a broad approach and perspective to examine all aspects of the issue," said Ways and Means Chairman Brian White. "We've heard a large outcry from citizens regarding the condition of our roads, and the House is poised to thoroughly examine this growing concern. We continue to hear that inadequate funding is the issue, but there are systematic problems which must be addressed prior to simply increasing funding."

[Rep. Gary Simrill](#), who was appointed Chairman of the bipartisan 13-member Infrastructure & Management Committee said the Committee plans to begin working right away and has scheduled a public meeting for September 16th at 1:00 pm in Room 110 of the Blatt Building.

"Ask any Lawmaker, from any corner of our state, they're all hearing the same thing from folks back home – what are you going to do about our roads?!" Chairman Simrill stated. "This is a statewide concern, a statewide problem, and it's going to require a statewide solution. Adequate funding is just as important as the responsible management of those funds. This Committee has a big task ahead of it, and it's our goal to find solutions that will work better and improve both sides of this equation."

Appointees to The S.C. House Infrastructure & Management Ad Hoc Committee

Rep. J. Gary Simrill, **Chairman** (District 46 – York)
Rep. Merita A. "Rita" Allison (District 36 – Spartanburg)
Rep. Heather Ammons Crawford (District 68 – Horry)
Rep. Chandra E. Dillard (District 23 – Greenville)
Rep. J. Wayne George (District 57 – Marion)
Rep. Phyllis Henderson (District 21 – Greenville)
Rep. William G. "Bill" Herbkersman (District 118 – Beaufort)
Rep. William M. "Bill" Hixon (District 83 – Aiken)
Rep. Lonnie Hosey (District 91 – Allendale, Barnwell & Orangeburg)
Rep. Harry B. "Chip" Limehouse, III (District 110 – Charleston)
Rep. Joseph H. "Joe" Neal (District 70 – Richland)
Rep. Russell L. Ott (District 93 – Calhoun)
Rep. R. Shannon Riley (District 13 – Greenwood)

The agenda is attached for your convenience.

Kim Jackson

Executive Secretary

South Carolina House of Representatives

Ways and Means Committee

803.734.3144 Telephone

803.734.2826 Fax

kimjackson@schouse.gov