

Title: **LAKE CONESTEE PARK SANCTUARY**
 Author: SCOTT KEELER DSKEELER@GREENVILLENEWS.COM
 Size: 93.77 column inches
 Simpsonville, SC Circulation: 38725



LAKE CONESTEE PARK SANCTUARY



Gov. Haley signs bill to help local wildlife

SCOTT KEELER DSKEELER@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

CINDY HOSEA/STAFF
 Lake Conestee Nature Park
 in Greenville

As a privately owned park, Lake Conestee Nature Park has not enjoyed the same protections that state parks automatically have.

It got much closer on Tuesday though. Conestee Foundation officials announced that the park has the highest level of protection afforded by state law to a privately owned facility. That protection came when Gov. Nikki Haley signed House Bill 4743, which made the park a wildlife sanctuary.

The foundation's executive director, Dr. David Hargett, said this sanctuary status provides for the protection and conservation of game, songbirds, waterfowl, fish, amphibians, other animals, and plant life. The law prohibits the damage to or removal of any animals, flowers, shrubs, trees, plants, or artifacts within the park without a permit from the Conestee Foundation.

"In terms of law enforcement, it allows us to work closely with DNR and have their enforcement agents engage someone who's doing something prohibited by the law," Hargett said.

After the non-profit Conestee Foundation was created 18 years ago, the group acquired the lake and later the surrounding farmlands. Hargett said the area previously was a "no mans land," but in that sense it was

"every man's land."

"Historically, there was a lot of hunting, fishing and all kinds of activities out here that are no longer compatible with our current function as a publicly accessible park," Hargett said. "Through studies we've

Title: **LAKE CONESTEE PARK SANCTUARY**
 Author: SCOTT KEELER DSKEELER@GREENVILLENEWS.COM
 Size: 93.77 column inches
 Simpsonville, SC Circulation: 38725

done, we've learned that the best thing to do in terms of the habitat here is to leave it alone."

Hargett said the bill specifically can help stop the water fowl hunting that has gone on as recently as last winter. He said people have navigated down the river and been able to legally discharge weapons from a floating vessel.

"As strange at that may seem, it's happened," Hargett said. "Meanwhile, we're an important bird area of global significance. We have people coming from all over the region to see the extraordinary bird life that's here."

The park is comprised of over 400 acres of forests, meadows and wetlands along the Reedy six miles south of Greenville. It has been named by the Audubon

Society and BirdLife International as an Important Bird Area of Global Significance. A total of 206 bird

See **SANCTUARY, Page 3A**

**"This is really a
place to go slow,
leave no tracks
and no trash ..."**

DAVID HARGETT
CONESTEE FOUNDATION DIRECTOR

Sanctuary

Continued from Page 1A

species have been identified at the park.

The park opened in October of 2006. Since then, 12 miles of trails have been developed, and half of those are paved. There's over a mile of boardwalk, numerous observation decks and 36 learning stations on the ground with more on the way.

Hargett said in addition to trying to protect wildlife, this bill also strives to protect school children and other visitors to the park.

"It's a very active place for nature education, learning about the environment and for learning about Greenville's

hometown river, the Reedy River," Hargett said. "We estimate that we have 60,000 people a year coming through this park. It's as big, as complex and has visitation similar to some of the leading state parks."

This law also prohibits the release of non-native wildlife, including domesticated pets, and non-native plants onto park lands. Hargett said a Burmese python that someone released was captured at the park last year, and feral cats and unleashed dogs have also roamed free. The penalties for violation of the statute can include fines up to \$500, and imprisonment for not more than 30 days.

Hargett said earning another level of

protection was first discussed by the group years ago, but they began approaching the legislative delegation of Greenville County two years ago. He expressed gratitude for State Reps. Eric Bedingfield, Chandra Dillard, Leola Robinson-Simpson and Phyllis Henderson for sponsoring the bill.

"This can be a really powerful educational tool for us to let people understand that nature has the right of way here. ... About 97 percent of our 400 acres is wild space, and I consider those 'do not disturb' zones," Hargett said.

"This is really a place to go slow, leave no tracks and no trash and enjoy the wildlife and the sanctuary that nature's provided here in all of its resilience."



CINDY HOSEA/STAFF

The Conestee Foundation has announced that Lake Conestee Nature Park has been recognized by state law as a wildlife sanctuary.

Title: **House speaker faults Senate, governor on roads debate**
 Author: BY SEANNA ADCOX Associated Press
 Size: 39.68 column inches
 Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 61238



House speaker faults Senate, governor on roads debate

House Speaker Jay Lucas blamed Gov. Nikki Haley for not forcing senators to make a decision on the roads bill

The Senate has two days left in the legislative session

BY SEANNA ADCOX

Associated Press

COLUMBIA

House Speaker Jay Lucas said Tuesday that Gov. Nikki Haley and the Senate will be to blame if legislation intended to start fixing South Carolina's crumbling roads dies this session.

Senators need to pass a bill, and Haley should be demanding it, he said.

Lucas, R-Hartsville, said he tried unsuccessfully to meet earlier Tuesday with the Republican governor. Haley is traveling the state this week endorsing challengers to several Republican legislators.

"It is obvious she believes her time is better spent endorsing opponents of sitting General Assembly members rather than demand the senators across the hall do their job," he said. "Gov. Haley has actively used her bully pulpit to her advantage throughout this process. But in the eleventh hour, when we should be minutes away from reaching a compromise, her silence proves that she lacks

concern for good public policy."

Haley spokeswoman Chaney Adams said legislative leaders know her position.

"Sometimes the best way to get something done in Columbia is to elect new people who actually want to serve the public rather than themselves," Adams said.

Two separate measures could allow for \$2 billion in borrowing over 10 years for highway construction, using \$200 million annually in existing fees and vehicle taxes. They could also make governance changes at the Department of Transportation.

With just two days left in the legislative session, the Senate has yet to vote on the potential compromise.

Senate Majority Leader Shane Massey said Tuesday he doesn't care which bill makes it to Haley's desk.

"But I do care that it gets done," said Massey, R-Edgewood, at the podium, in asking senators to take up the issue. "I think the cred-

ibility of self-government is on the line as to whether we can address the most basic needs facing South Carolina."

In April 2015, the House approved legislation raising an additional \$400 million for road and bridge construction.

But senators who oppose raising the state's gas tax — unchanged since 1987 at 16 cents per gallon — blocked any increase, saying the DOT and the separate agency that borrows money for roadwork must be reformed first.

The House then agreed to the borrowing proposed by Senate President Pro Tem

Hugh Leatherman, which he calls a first step in fixing the state's infrastructure. The Legislature's budget plan for next fiscal year includes the \$200 million intended for borrowing, but the money can't be bonded if the bill doesn't pass.

"This chamber has done everything that we can to get a roads bill passed this

year," Lucas said, saying his speech served "as a voice for the South Carolinians' who are outraged because we still do not have a roads bill."

Haley had adamantly opposed any gas tax increase for roads. But since January 2015, she's repeatedly said she she could support a 10-cent increase if the legislation also gives the governor's office more control of the DOT and cuts income taxes.

Currently, the DOT secretary answers to both Haley and an eight-member commission, seven of whom are appointed by legislators.

“

THIS CHAMBER HAS DONE EVERYTHING THAT WE CAN TO GET A ROADS BILL PASSED THIS YEAR.

S.C. House Speaker Jay Lucas

Title: **Haley: Atlantic Beach 'shut the door' during talks**
 Author: CHRISTIAN BOSCHULT cboschult@thesunnews.com
 Size: 92.38 column inches
 Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 61238



ATLANTIC BEACH BIKEFEST

Haley: Atlantic Beach 'shut the door' during talks

Atlantic Beach "said no" to economic development offer

One fatal shooting during 2016 Bikefest

No fatalities during 2015 Bikefest

CHRISTIAN BOSCHULT

cboschult@thesunnews.com

GEORGETOWN

Gov. Nikki Haley addressed crime during Atlantic Beach Bikefest on Tuesday, saying the state would continue to lend a hand to improve life for residents during the event.

She said that attempts to work with Atlantic Beach to increase tourism in exchange for ending Atlantic Beach Bikefest have been unsuccessful.

"We tried talking to Atlantic Beach, and they pretty much shut the door in our face," she said. "I had my director of tourism go talk to Atlantic Beach and they listened to him and they basically said no to everything we had to offer."

Atlantic Beach officials either declined to comment or couldn't be reached Tuesday.

Atlantic Beach councilwoman Josephine Isom said she was out of town and couldn't comment on the matter, and Timothy Taylor, the town's police chief, referred questions to City Manager Benjamin Quattlebaum and Mayor Jake Evans.

Numerous attempts to contact

Evans, councilmen Lenearl Evans, Kenneth McLaurin and Quattlebaum were unsuccessful.

Haley addressed Bikefest after speaking to the Rotary Club of Georgetown at Chacon's of Georgetown.

She said that crime at the event this year had decreased since 2015, despite three shootings this year, including the death of 23-year-old Pierre Allen who died less than an hour after being shot at the Fountainbleau Inn off Ocean Boulevard early Friday morning.

There were no shooting deaths in 2015.

Haley said she remained in touch with the South Carolina Department of Public Safety and the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division during the event.

"This year, what we saw was a decrease of about 40 percent, coming just because of the traffic loop and not finding it to be quite as fun," Haley said. "The concern with that was the rain. It forced everybody to go into the hotels, and that's when you saw the shootings."

Haley said officials will continue

to work to improve the event.

"What we'll do is continue to focus on this area so it's good for the residents who live here," she said.

In 2014, when three people were killed in shootings during Memorial Day weekend, Haley said that "no revenue is worth the bad press" that the bike festival received.

"There are no revenues worth the lack of tourism that we will lose because of what happened this past weekend," she said at the time. "It is time for that Bikefest to come to an end."

Haley had offered economic support to the city if it ended the festival. Town officials have said that Bikefest isn't going anywhere.

In 2015, Haley praised law enforcement for their job, and attributed their success to the sensitivity training attended by the more than 600 officers who worked during the event.

Christian Boschult, 843-626-0218, @CBOSCHI92

Title: **Haley: Atlantic Beach 'shut the door' during talks**
Author: CHRISTIAN BOSCHULT cboschult@thesunnews.com
Size: 92.38 column inches
Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 61238

➔ MORE INSIDE

Myrtle Beach leaders say the Bikefest safety measures are working, but believe tweaks can be made to the traffic plans. **6A**

PHOTOS BY JANET BLACKMON MORGAN jblackmon@thesunnews.com

Gov. Nikki Haley speaks to the Rotary Club on Tuesday at Chacon's of Georgetown.



Haley discussed improving the port, prisoner reform, welfare, state legislature reform and the state's infrastructure.

Title: **Haley to endorse Myrtle Beach attorney in state Senate race**
 Author: BY JAMIE SELF jself@thestate.com
 Size: 15.19 column inches
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



Haley to endorse Myrtle Beach attorney in state Senate race

BY JAMIE SELF
jself@thestate.com

Gov. Nikki Haley is endorsing Myrtle Beach attorney Reese Boyd in the GOP primary for the District 34 state Senate seat, which Sen. Ray Cleary, R-Georgetown, will vacate when his term expires.

The Republican governor was to attend a 5 p.m. Tuesday reception for Boyd at the DeBordieu Clubhouse in Georgetown.

Boyd and three others are running for the open Senate seat, including state Rep. Stephen Goldfinch, R-Georgetown, who Haley and the pro-Haley political group, A Great Day SC, oppose. The PAC is running ads in the three state Senate races.

The PAC's leader, Tim Pearson, has said Haley is opposing Goldfinch, whom she campaigned for in 2014, because he voted to raise the gas tax without lowering income taxes enough to produce a net tax cut for S.C. residents.

Later this week, Haley heads to Florence and Myrtle Beach to endorse Florence County GOP chairman Richard Skipper and Scott Pyle, who are challenging S.C. Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, and Sen. Luke Rankin, R-Horry, respectively.

The endorsements are part of an effort to shake up leadership in the state Senate by ousting leaders that Haley sees as blocking her agenda.

Jamie Self: 803-771-8658

Title: **Myers, Scott vie for seat in runoff**
 Author: BY SARAH ELLIS sellis@thestate.com
 Size: 29.91 column inches
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



DISTRICT 10 RACE

Myers, Scott vie for seat in runoff

BY SARAH ELLIS
sellis@thestate.com

It will take one more election to decide who will fill Kelvin Washington's vacated Richland County Council seat between now and the November general election.

Political newcomer Dalhi (pronounced DALE-ya) Myers and council vet-

FROM PAGE 2A

eran Bernice Scott – who represented District 10 for 20 years before her son-in-law, Washington, was elected in 2008 – will face each other in a runoff election June 14.

Helen Taylor Bradley, who was trying for her fourth time to become the District 10 representative, finished a close third in voting behind Scott but did

SEE DISTRICT 10, 7A

DISTRICT 10

not make the runoff ballot.

Myers, a lawyer who grew up in Hopkins, recently moved back to Lower Richland. She bested Scott by just more than 100 votes. Efforts by The State to reach Myers on Tuesday night were unsuccessful.

But no one got the required majority plus one vote to avoid a runoff.

If Myers wins the runoff, she will end 28 years of single-family representation for the council district that covers Hopkins, Gadsden and Eastover.

"The whole thing boils down to one thing," Scott said late Tuesday. "The seat belongs to the people. ... I'm running to help. I'm not running to do anything else, so I'm good."

The special election was necessary after Gov. Nikki Haley removed Washington from his council seat for failing to file income tax returns for three years.

About 2,000 out of more than 19,000 registered voters in the district cast votes Tuesday.

Five democrats – Bradley, Myers, Scott, Mary Jackson Kirkland and Jerome Marvin Miller –

were vying to replace Washington.

Myers received about 39 percent of the votes; Scott, 34 percent; Bradley, 25 percent; Kirkland, 2 percent; Miller, 0.5 percent.

The runoff winner will sit on council until after the November general election, when voters will decide among the same five candidates to serve a four-year council term.

June 14 also is the day of the statewide general primary election to decide candidates for the November ballot. District 10 voters will cast two ballots that day – one for the special election runoff and

one for the general election primary.

Scott said she was disappointed in the low voter turnout on Tuesday but believes the low numbers could have been the result of confusion with two elections being held so close together. She said she expects turnout to be higher on June 14 and the vote margin to be wider between the candidates.

"I'm delighted that I'm in the number" for the runoff, Scott said. "Win, lose or draw, I'm still going to be Bernice Scott ... and I'm still going to help people all I can."

Title: **Myers, Scott vie for seat in runoff**
Author: BY SARAH ELLIS sellis@thestate.com
Size: 29.91 column inches
Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



Myers



Scott

Title: **Senate endorses roads deal**
 Author: BY CASSIE COPE ccope@thestate.com
 Size: 57.50 column inches
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



Senate endorses roads deal

BY CASSIE COPE
 ccope@thestate.com

Deal gives governor more control of state Transportation Department

Senate acts after House Speaker Jay Lucas blasts fellow Republican Gov. Nikki Haley and GOP-majority Senate for failing to act

S.C. senators approved giving the governor more control of the state's road-repair agency late Tuesday.

The move came after S.C. House Speaker Jay Lucas took to the House floor earlier Tuesday, blaming the Senate and Gov. Nikki Haley



Lucas

for not passing a proposal to repair the state's roads.

With only two days left in the legislative session, Lucas said he tried to meet with fellow Republican Haley Tuesday morning on the road-repair deadlock, but she could not meet.

"She believes her time is better spent endorsing opponents of sitting General Assembly members, rather than demand the senators across the hall do their job and pass a roads bill," Lucas said to

raucous applause from House members.

Haley is on the road this week endorsing three GOP primary candidates for State House seats, including two challengers to powerful incumbent Republican senators.

Haley's spokeswoman said Tuesday House and Senate leaders know where the governor stands on the road-repair issue. "Sometimes, the best way to get something done in Columbia is to elect new people who actually want to serve the public rather than themselves," Cha-

SEE ROADS, 7A

FROM PAGE 1A

ROADS

ney Adams said.

After Lucas' comments, GOP senators held up a proposal to forgive \$12 million in loans owed the state by S.C. State University. The Republicans said the maneuver was an effort to force debate of a roads' proposal giving the governor control of the state Transportation Department, a move some Democratic state senators opposed.

However, the move angered Democratic state senators, many African-American, who said it threatened S.C. State's existence.

Senators ultimately approved forgiving some of the state's loans to the historically black university as part of the state budget. S.C. State needs

loan forgiveness to keep its accreditation or face closure.

That left the sticking point of how much control the governor should have over the Transportation Department.

Senators reached a deal about 10 p.m. Tuesday that would allow the governor to appoint all eight members of the commission that oversees the Transportation Department.

Those appointees would have to be approved by legislators.

Currently, seven Transportation Department commission members are elected by legislative delegations. The governor appoints the eighth member.

Many GOP lawmakers and Gov. Haley say the

governor should have more control of the Transportation Department, and the State Transportation Infrastructure Bank should be folded into that agency.

The House already has approved giving the governor the authority to appoint all eight of that Transportation Commission's members. Traditionally, only senators confirm appointments made by the governor.

"The Senate is the real roadblock for road repair," Lucas said earlier Tuesday, noting the Senate had not acted on a bill the House passed last week.

Lucas also faulted Haley, saying the governor had used her bully pulpit throughout the roads-repair-and-reform process but has fallen silent at the 11th hour.

"Her silence proved that she lacks concern for good public policy, public policy that directly impacts the safety of our citizens and the sustainability of our economy," Lucas said.

The S.C. House can agree with the Senate plan passed Tuesday night or send it to a six-member conference committee to work out differences between the two road proposals.

A House proposal to increase the state's gas tax to help pay for road repairs failed in the Senate in March.

Instead, the Senate proposed spending \$400 million a year out of the state's general fund budget on road repairs.

Critics said that plan raided the general fund

Title: **Senate endorses roads deal**
 Author: BY CASSIE COPE ccope@thestate.com
 Size: 57.50 column inches
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564

budget, normally spent on state services including education and public safety. That plan also died.

The most recent road-repair proposal to emerge is a bonding plan that the state Transportation Department estimates would pay for more than \$4 billion in road-repair projects.

Under that 10-year plan, the Transportation Department says nearly 400 bridges would be replaced. Malfunction Junction — the Transportation Department's No. 1 priority to fix — also would be reworked.

Cassie Cope: 803-771-8657, @cassielcope

Military income tax breaks stall

A proposal to offer state income tax deductions to military retirees has stalled in the Senate. The plan would offer military retirees with at least 20 years of service a deduction of \$17,500 a year for those under 65 or \$30,000 a year for those 65 or older.

Military retirees under 65 must have a job in the state with an annual salary of at least \$17,500 to be eligible.

The proposal would cost the state about \$18 million a year, according to the S.C. Department of Revenue. Advocates of the proposal say it would retain disciplined workers in the state.

Sen. Gerald Malloy, D-Darlington, has held up the proposal in the Senate. Malloy said Tuesday that few military members retire in rural areas, like the Darlington area that he represents. Instead retirees end up in more urban counties like Beaufort or Charleston, he said.

Title: **Haley selective about federal aid**

Author:

Size: 4.65 column inches

Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



Haley selective about federal aid

So Gov. Nikki Haley vetoed the \$40 million to assist farmers hit hard by the October floods because there are federal programs that can assist S.C. farmers. Is this the same federal government that Gov. Haley loves to take to task for overreach? It is striking how GOP governors will malign the federal gov-

ernment with every other breath but turn around and accept federal assistance when it suits their purposes.

- *Dave Renton*
Elgin

Title: **Pickens County gets first female resident judge for family court**
 Author: RON BARNETT RBARNETT@GREENVILLENEWS.COM
 Size: 29.76 column inches
 Greenville, SC Circulation: 113473



Pickens County gets first female resident judge for family court

RON BARNETT

RBARNETT@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

Pickens County has a new Family Court judge.

Karen Sanchez Roper has been elected to succeed Alvin D. Johnson, who will retire on June 30 after 20 years on the bench.

She is the first woman to be appointed by the General Assembly as a resident judge for Pickens County.

Roper is an attorney and founding partner of Roper Law Firm in Pickens. She will leave the law practice upon assuming her duties on the bench.

"I am delighted to have this opportunity to serve my community," she said. "I am humbled by the trust placed in me by the General Assembly, particularly the members of our local delegation, and will work diligently to ensure the Family Court continues to support and encourage our families."

A native of Valdosta, Georgia, Roper received her undergraduate



Karen Roper

degree from the University of Georgia and her law degree from the University of South Carolina.

She established Roper Law Firm in 1997, with a focus on family law litigation.

Her husband, attorney Ken Roper, joined the firm in 2001.

In addition to her legal work, she has served in various leadership roles with civic organizations in the community, including the Cannon Memorial Foundation Board, Leadership Pickens County, First Steps, Prevent Child Abuse, and the Pickens Women's Association.

Gov. Nikki Haley appointed Roper to the Anderson-Oconee-Pickens Mental Health Board in 2014.

As judge, Roper will preside over cases primarily in the 13th Judicial Circuit, covering Pickens and Greenville counties, but also will hear cases throughout the state as assigned by South Carolina Court

Administration.

The Family Court has exclusive jurisdiction over all matters involving domestic relationships and decides cases concerning marriage, divorce, separation, custody, visitation rights, termination of parental rights, adoption, child support, alimony, division of marital property, name changes, and juvenile matters.

Judicial candidates are screened through the Judicial Merit Selection Commission and undergo a law examination, interviews with the South Carolina Bar and the Upstate Citizen's Committee, and a public hearing before the Commission. After qualification and nomination, judges are elected by members of the South Carolina General Assembly.

Karen and Ken Roper are the parents of two sons, Carson and Hampton, who attend Pickens High School. She and her family are members of Pickens Presbyterian Church, where she is an Elder and Trustee.

Title: **Senate OKs budget compromise**

Author:

Size: 6.82 column inches

Rock Hill, SC Circulation: 34688



Senate OKs budget compromise

COLUMBIA

The S.C. Legislature's \$7.5 billion spending plan for next fiscal year is one vote from Gov. Nikki Haley's desk.

Senators voted 36-9 Tuesday to approve the budget compromise reached over the weekend by a panel of Senate and House members.

House approval would send the package to Haley, who has the authority to veto specific items.

Spending she might strike could include the \$40 million of aid to farmers whose crops were wiped out by last October's catastrophic flooding. The Legislature already overrode Haley's veto of legislation setting up how that aid will be distributed.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

Title: **House speaker: Senate, governor are to blame if roads legislation fails**
 Author: BY SEANNA ADCOX Associated Press
 Size: 34.87 column inches
 Rock Hill, SC Circulation: 34688



LEGISLATURE

House speaker: Senate, governor are to blame if roads legislation fails

BY SEANNA ADCOX

Associated Press
COLUMBIA

House Speaker Jay Lucas said Tuesday that Gov. Nikki Haley and the Senate will be to blame if legislation intended to start fixing South Carolina's crumbling roads

FROM PAGE 3A

ROADS

than demand the senators across the hall do their job," he said in a speech that brought applause and standing ovations. "Gov. Haley has actively used her bully pulpit to her advantage throughout this process. But in the eleventh hour, when we should be minutes away from reaching a compromise, her silence proves that she lacks concern for good public policy."

Haley spokeswoman Chaney Adams said legislative leaders know her position.

"Sometimes the best way to get something done in Columbia is to elect new people who actually want to serve the public rather than themselves," Adams said.

Two separate measures could allow for \$2 billion

dies this session.

Senators need to pass a bill, and Haley should be demanding it, he said.

Lucas, a Hartsville Republican whose district includes part of Lancaster

County, said he tried unsuccessfully to meet earlier Tuesday with the Republican governor. Haley is traveling the state this week endorsing challengers to several Republican legislators.

"It is obvious she believes her time is better spent endorsing opponents of sitting General Assembly members rather

SEE ROADS, 6A

in borrowing over 10 years for highway construction, using \$200 million annually in existing fees and vehicle taxes. They could also make governance changes at the Department of Transportation.

With just two days left in the legislative session, the Senate has yet to vote on the potential compromise.

Senate Majority Leader Shane Massey said Tuesday he doesn't care which bill makes it to Haley's desk.

"But I do care that it gets done," said Massey, R-Edgefield, at the podium, in asking senators to take up the issue. "I think the credibility of self-government is on the line as to whether we can address the most basic needs

facing South Carolina."

In April 2015, the House approved legislation raising an additional \$400 million for road and bridge construction.

But senators who oppose raising the state's gas tax - unchanged since 1987 at 16 cents per gallon - blocked any increase, saying the DOT and the separate agency that borrows money for roadwork must be reformed first.

The House then agreed to the borrowing proposed by Senate President Pro Tem Hugh Leatherman, which he calls a first step in fixing the state's infrastructure. The Legislature's budget plan for next fiscal year includes the \$200 million intended for borrowing, but the money can't be bonded if the bill

doesn't pass.

"This chamber has done everything that we can to get a roads bill passed this year," Lucas said, saying his speech served "as a voice for the South Carolinians' who are outraged because we still do not have a roads bill."

Haley had adamantly opposed any gas tax increase for roads. But since January 2015, she's repeatedly said she she could support a 10-cent increase if the legislation also gives the governor's office more control of the DOT and cuts income taxes.

Currently, the DOT secretary answers to both Haley and an eight-member commission, seven of whom are appointed by legislators.