

March 21, 2016

Dear Member of the SC House of Representatives:

First of all, I would like to thank the South Carolina House of Representatives for its steadfast work on analyzing and identifying possible solutions for transportation funding and critically needed reform. I am optimistic that the General Assembly will take action this session to remove the cloud that is hanging over SCDOT and the agency will be able to enter its 100th year with resolution to one of the biggest issues facing the state currently. Our economy depends on a strong road and bridge network and it is my responsibility as the Secretary of Transportation to report the areas of greatest needs to our state's policy makers.

As such, I am writing to advise that our analysis of statewide road conditions indicates that **the Primary System is in a state of crisis.** ***Approximately 80% of the pavements are in a state of disrepair and this segment of our state's transportation network carries nearly half of our traffic.*** As shown on the attached map, these routes are in urban and rural areas and serve as major connectors between our communities. Not only do our citizens depend on these roads daily, but our businesses and industries depend on them to move their freight and goods across the state. This is not an issue that gets better with time; the longer we wait to address this problem, the more expensive it gets.

Due to current funding limitations, South Carolina's Primary System pavements are on a 24-year paving cycle versus the industry standard of 10 years. Once these pavements erode into the Poor condition category, they typically require complete reconstruction....at a higher cost. SCDOT is projecting that the Primary System will continue to decay to a point of 90% in disrepair if no action is taken.

If the General Assembly is going to make an investment in roads, it should consider directing funds to the State Highway Fund for SCDOT to deploy onto the Primary System instead of the CTCs. Continued additional investment into the Secondary System is placing the low traffic volume roads in priority status at the expense of the State's Primary System.

I trust this information is helpful and please feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



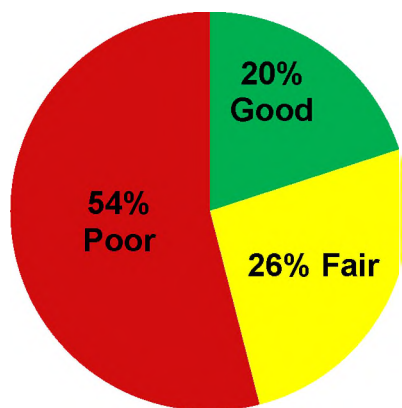
Christy A. Hall, P.E.
Secretary of Transportation

CC: The Honorable Nikki R. Haley, Governor
Honorable Members of the SC Senate
Attachment

South Carolina's Primary System: Pavement Conditions



80% of the Primary System is in a state of disrepair



Carries half of the state's traffic