

# Infrastructure & Growth Leadership

## IS NORTH CAROLINA'S INFRASTRUCTURE READY TO WITHSTAND THE DEMANDS OF THE FUTURE?

### KEY INDICATORS

**35%**

35 percent of North Carolina roads are in poor condition. Driving on roads in need of repair costs N.C. motorists \$3.5 billion a year - \$480 per motorist.

TRIP

**10.2%**

Bridges are structurally deficient in our state.

24/7 Wall St.

**81%**

81 percent of commodities shipped to and from N.C. are transported by trucks.

TRIP

**45%**

45 percent of North Carolina's urban interstates experience congestion during peak hours.

TRIP

**1/3**

More than one-third of the respondents to the 2018 NC Chamber Water Planning Survey indicated that water issues impede the ability to expand their business.

NC Chamber Water Planning Survey

With more than two million people expected to move to North Carolina by 2030, there is no doubt that our state's infrastructure is going to be put to the test. Roads, railways, ports, water and sewer systems, energy resources and broadband availability each present their own unique challenges—all of which can have major ramifications for businesses operating in the state. Will our roads and bridges be ready to move goods and people at speed? Do municipalities and regional authorities have both the water supply and infrastructure they need to weather increased demand and problems? What will it take to increase broadband access and adoption in every corner of the state? How do we ensure businesses and consumers alike have access to reliable, affordable energy while still pursuing a diversified, 21<sup>st</sup>-century energy strategy?

North Carolina's future is bright, but it will take all of us to keep the state moving in the right direction to keep our communities, businesses and people connected. That's why the NC Chamber Foundation developed **North Carolina Vision 2030**. This business-led plan provides a framework for tackling these serious challenges while we still have time.

### PRIMARY AREAS OF FOCUS

#### Create Plan to Fund North Carolina's Roads and Bridges:

Thirty-five percent of North Carolina's major roads are in poor or mediocre condition and ten percent of the state's bridges are structurally deficient. In order to keep pace with the current rate of growth and development, North Carolina must strategically re-examine its transportation investment. In addition, current funding methodologies will not provide adequate resources to fund this need. Building on past efforts, The NC Chamber Foundation is **conducting** a study to recommend possible alternative funding methods, necessary investment levels, and consequences of insufficient investment.

#### Develop a 21st-Century Energy Plan:

The NC Chamber Foundation is **convening** stakeholders to identify what business needs from the state's energy infrastructure and develop possible strategies to achieve an affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy grid that keeps our state competitive. **Collaborating** with providers and consumers, the Foundation will help chart a course for a sustainable energy future.

#### Rebuild Eastern North Carolina:

Rural challenges, the lingering impact of the 2008 recession and recent natural disasters have devastated the eastern part of our state. The NC Chamber Foundation will **conduct** a comprehensive effort to consider ways to rebuild infrastructure and to support job creation in multiple sectors. Starting by **convening** key leaders in these rural areas and the groups whose work impacts these communities, the Foundation will develop options to assist in reinvigoration efforts.