

Infrastructure Funding Passes General Assembly in 2017

The General Assembly passed a road funding bill that includes a 2 cents per gallon increase in the state's gas tax. The increase in taxes and new fees are projected to generate \$630 million in new recurring revenue. SCDOT has indicated they will make rural roads a priority.

SCDOT Secretary Christie Hall has unveiled their Rural Roads Safety Program to begin addressing the prevalence of highway fatalities. Approximately 58% of traffic fatalities in the state occur on rural roads. Secretary Hall said the program will target the "worst of the worst roads in our state."

The department ranked roadways by prevalence of fatal and serious injury, run-off-road crashes, and average daily traffic. Modifications will include engineering solutions to prevent vehicles from leaving the roadways, including rumble strips and wider shoulders.

SCDOT is providing public notification of the Off-interstate Rural Road Safety Program. The comprehensive project priority list provides details of 29 rural roads in 25 counties.

Phase I includes the first 500 miles of the 2000 miles of rural roads where five percent of the deadliest crashes occur. Improvement projects will be broken down into 10-mile segments, and Phase I is expected to be complete in three to four years. The entire 2,000-mile project is expected to be complete in 10 years.