

2009 – 2010 Legislative Agenda

Primary Agenda

• Community Planning

Create and Promote legislation requiring that all NC localities prepare (and keep up to date) Comprehensive Plans that include minimum elements (to be clarified) and authorize dedicated new funding sources to help communities prepare these Comprehensive Plans. These changes are essential for communities to adequately monitor, predict and address local growth, environmental protection and infrastructure issues.

• Growth Strategies (including Multi-modal Transportation and Green Communities)

Provide clear state authorization for a range of important land use management strategies that allow communities to support healthy and environmentally-friendly growth. These strategies are necessary to allow communities to address local growth issues, changing economic development demands, and changes in transportation behavior as they seek to build communities that can serve their residents while accommodating increasingly limited public resources.

• Infrastructure Funding

Authorize dedicated new funding sources to help communities address the current infrastructure crisis and meet growing service demands for transportation, water and sewer service, affordable housing, schools, parks, and other community facilities. Decisions on funding mechanisms should be allowed at the local level rather than through special legislation at the state level. New funding sources beyond the sales and property tax are needed so a 21st century infrastructure can be built to accommodate the rapid population growth of North Carolina.

Secondary Agenda

• NCDOT/Federal Transportation Funding

Establish equitable funding for multi-modal transportation facilities and facility maintenance. Funding for transportation facilities and maintenance is critical for the future economic health of North Carolina. Funding a wide variety of transportation options is critical to the health of our environment and citizens. Funding formulas and project selection criteria should be equal for all transportation projects: transit, highway, bike, pedestrian, rail, or air. Our goal is to ensure that sound transportation planning practices and project implementation are enabled.

• Environmental/Conservation Planning

Support expanded funding for land conservation, strengthen planning and tax credit regulations to protect conservation lands, encourage habitat rehabilitation, and reduce barriers for water conservation planning and the re-use of reclaimed water. Support water conservation and reuse through reclaimed, recycled, and rainwater use to provide water for the next generation of residents. Land conservation will provide local food for the new inhabitants, as well as protect water quality and water quantity.

- **Affordable Housing**

Authorize major new funding and policies to help communities provide adequate affordable housing and ensure that all residents have a safe, decent, affordable place to live. Options for affordable housing include 1, 2, and 3 bedroom condominiums and apartments. Options are for home ownership and rental – especially for state and local employees