



The Senate Connection

Connecting Davie and Rowan Counties
with news from the
Office of Senator Andrew Brock

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Sen. Andrew Brock
Republican

This Week:
Update on the Yadkin
River Bridge & trans-
portation issues

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Replacement of Yadkin River Bridge to Become a Reality

**With the Help of Senator Brock, New Yadkin River Bridget
Project to Move Forward**

Commuters in Davie and Rowan Counties will soon see some relief from the terrible congestion on Interstate 85 arising from delays on the Yadkin River Bridge. The Senate recently gave final approval to House bill 292, a bill which authorizes the North Carolina Turnpike Authority to begin “preliminary design work for a replacement for the Yadkin River Bridge.” The legislation, strongly supported by Senator Brock, is aimed at providing “accelerated, efficient, and cost-effective completion of the project.”

“I’m thrilled that both the Senate and the House have given approval to this project. Due to the condensing of traffic at the bridge, it has become the site of many dangerous car accidents. We live in a growing area and as the suburbs of Charlotte continue to push north, traffic problems along the bridge will only get worse. It’s time that the citizens of the 34th district get back some of their tax dollars in the form of a new bridge,” the senator said.

Democrat Senator David Hoyle Resorts to Dirty Politics

As a strong supporter of H292, Senator Brock handled the legislation when it reached the Senate. In that role he was responsible for presenting the bill to the body and speaking on its behalf. While introducing the legislation, Senator Brock was interrupted by Democrat Senator David Hoyle, who asked if the senator would support Democrats’ proposals to raise taxes to pay for the bridge and other highway projects. Senator Brock responded that there would be no need to raise taxes if Democrats would stop continually raiding the Highway Trust Fund each year and diverting money specifically earmarked for North Carolina’s roads to the General Fund where it can be spent on pet projects. The clever (and true) answer caught Hoyle by surprise and he was unable to respond with anything but threats. Calling the answer “demagoguery” Hoyle said that Democrat budget writers would remember Senator Brock’s answer when it came time to dole out money for the bridge.

“Hoyle’s threat was highly unethical and reflects type of good ole boy politics and backroom deals that North Carolinians have come to expect from the party of Jim Black,” Senator Brock commented later.

You can hear the live recording from the floor of the senate from www.andrewbrock.com/newsletters

Facts on Transportation in North Carolina

According to *Breaking the Gridlock, 1985-2005: A Guide to North Carolina Transportation Policy*, a publication of the non-partisan Civitas Institute:

“North Carolina was once affectionately known as ‘The Good Road State.’ After consistently ranking in the top 10 in terms of quality, safety, and congestion, the state’s transportation ratings fell rapidly during the second Jim Hunt (D) administration (mid-1990s). Since that time, North Carolina’s transportation system has ranked in the bottom half, hovering in the range of the 30s and 40s. As of 2004, North Carolina’s transportation system ranked 36th overall, with specific component ratings as follows:

- Rural Interstate poor pavement– 39th
- Urban Interstate poor pavement– 35th
- Rural Primary Pavement– 42nd
- Urban Interstate congestion– 48th
- Fatality Rate– 31st
- Deficient Bridges– 37th

During this same period—1995 to 2005—North Carolina’s transportation spending grew by nearly 50 percent, from \$1.68 billion to \$2.44 billion.”

South Rowan Junior Serves as Senate Page



Torie Lucas of China Grove to serve as a Senate page. Torie is a rising junior at South Rowan High School and is the daughter of Grady and Kim Lucas.