

## **Statement on NC-12's Transportation Priorities before the House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure**

Thank you Chairman DeFazio, Ranking Member Graves, and the distinguished members of this Committee for the opportunity to be with you today.

I'm excited to share with you the priorities of North Carolina's 12<sup>th</sup> District, and what we will be able to accomplish with your help through your Member Designated Projects.

Charlotte, the largest city in my district, has grown tremendously over the past decade. We are now the 15<sup>th</sup> largest city in the country.

At the same time, our county, Mecklenburg, has over one million residents and is one of the most populated in North Carolina.

Unfortunately, our transportation infrastructure has not kept pace with our rapid growth.

That's why our Charlotte Area Transit System- CATS- boldly invested to create our state and region's first light rail transit back in 2007.

With the support of then-Secretary of Transportation and former Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx and my friend and colleague THUD Appropriations Chairman David Price, CATS secured the federal funding necessary to create our light rail system through the Capital Investment Grant (CIG) program.

Prior to COVID-19, the LYNX Blue Line facilitated travel for almost 30,000 North Carolinians daily!

We know that our light rail works. That's why we're looking to fund its expansion: we want to connect our northern towns to Uptown Charlotte to airport.

And with your help, we'll be able to connect our entire region to our mass transit system.

So, as you work to draft a surface transportation reauthorization and infrastructure package, I strongly encourage you to increase the authorized funding for the Capital Investment Grant program.

I want to applaud you, Chairman DeFazio, for your work last Congress to dramatically increase the CIG program's authorized level of funding.

I look forward to working with you in the weeks and months ahead as this Committee develops this necessary legislation.

Now I want to take just a minute to address some of the requests that my office has received for Member Designated Projects.

In Cornelius, NC, the **Westmoreland Interchange project** will help facilitate the development of a new hospital that will anchor the region.

In Huntersville, NC, the **downtown greenway project** will help connect residents to a park and ride lot that will enable thousands to easily reach work in Uptown and relaxation in downtown Huntersville.

In Charlotte, member designated project funds will enable our local area transit system to purchase more electric buses, which will keep our air clean and our people moving.

And it will also allow the city to install streetlights on our high injury network to help prevent automobile accidents and save lives.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you and the Committee again for the opportunity to advocate for my constituents and for my city and county.

Down in North Carolina, we like to say that “Charlotte’s got a lot.”

I’m hoping that with your help, we can get a little bit more.

Thank you and I am pleased to answer any questions you may have.