

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2003**

**S**

**D**

**SENATE DRS35196-LK-129 (3/26)**

Short Title: Prosperity Project.

(Public)

---

Sponsors: Senators Shubert; Weinstein, Ballantine, and Rucho.

---

Referred to:

---

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1  
2 AN ACT TO ENHANCE THE PROSPERITY OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF  
3 NORTH CAROLINA BY ACCELERATING THE COMPLETION OF AN  
4 INTERSTATE QUALITY HIGHWAY ALONG THE GENERAL ROUTE OF U.S.  
5 HIGHWAY 74 LINKING ASHEVILLE TO CHARLOTTE TO WILMINGTON.

6       Whereas, the State of North Carolina is determined to promote the use of the  
7 Port of Wilmington and has devoted substantial funding to the improvement of the Port;  
8 and

9       Whereas, access to the Port from a substantial part of the State is less than  
10 adequate; and

11       Whereas, the military facilities in the Fayetteville area as well as the  
12 businesses in that area would benefit from enhanced access to the Port of Wilmington;  
13 and

14       Whereas, Asheville, Charlotte, and all the counties along the U.S. Highway  
15 74 corridor would greatly benefit from access to the Port of Wilmington; and

16       Whereas, the tourist industry of North Carolina would benefit from providing  
17 better roads between the major tourist destinations of Asheville, Charlotte, and  
18 Wilmington; and

19       Whereas, highway planning by regions may overlook the synergies of  
20 projects in which the whole is greater than the sum of the parts; and

21       Whereas, construction of a four-lane limited access road from Asheville to  
22 Wilmington through Charlotte has been proposed for years but not treated as a priority;  
23 Now, therefore,

24 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

25       **SECTION 1.** The Board of Transportation is directed to add to the next  
26 Transportation Improvement Program any construction projects necessary to complete  
27 the "Prosperity Project" of a corridor linking Asheville, Charlotte, and Wilmington.

1           **SECTION 2.** The Department of Transportation is directed to accelerate the  
2 planning, design, and construction of any projects necessary to complete the Prosperity  
3 Project, a complete four-lane limited access roadway corridor linking Asheville,  
4 Charlotte, and Wilmington.

5           **SECTION 3.** The equity formula in G.S. 136-17.2A shall not apply to the  
6 Prosperity Project so that all construction projects on this corridor can be completed at  
7 the earliest possible time.

8           **SECTION 4.** The Department of Transportation shall report annually,  
9 beginning in January 2004, to the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee  
10 on the progress in constructing the Prosperity Project and any other legislative  
11 enactments needed to expedite the construction of the Prosperity Project.

12           **SECTION 5.** This act is effective when it becomes law.