

We have received the letter sent to the Governor by four state representatives about the I-77 Express Lanes Project.

The Governor fully understands and experiences the congestion issue in the region and he welcomes constructive dialogue, viable ideas and realistic solutions.

The Governor neither requested this project nor would it be appropriate for him to cancel the contract based on a request from four representatives, without clear direction from the local elected officials who requested and approved the I-77 Express Lanes project on behalf of the Northern Mecklenburg County towns.

In addition, the Governor does not have the authority, without legislative approval to pay the associated penalties for sudden cancellation.

It is the local elected officials, who make up the local transportation planning organization, who would need to vote to cancel the project if they now want to change direction and take those steps, with a full understanding of the penalties and other ramifications for cancellation.

It is unfortunate that content of this letter is riddled with inaccurate and false claims. NCDOT will issue a more detailed response to correct this information later today. This letter avoids recognizing and informing the public of the costly ramifications associated with cancelling the project, with no clear path on how to fund associated penalties.

At the request of Governor McCrory, NCDOT representatives look forward to presenting accurate information at the I-77 meeting later this month and to hear new solutions from local

and state representatives. If the Metropolitan Planning Organization decides to vote to cancel the project at this point, NCDOT will work closely with the local elected officials to guide them through their required process and costly ramifications for the region.