

## **Resolution Concerning HOT Lanes in North Carolina**

WHEREAS, High Occupancy Toll lanes, or HOT lanes, are being considered as a way to add capacity to Interstate Highways and other roads across North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, many of these proposed HOT lanes will be privately operated under a 50 year (or longer) contract, most likely by a foreign-owned company; and

WHEREAS, drivers will pay to use the HOT lanes only when the general purpose lanes are congested, thereby ensuring congestion in the general purpose lanes instead of relieving it; and

WHEREAS, transportation officials have admitted HOT lanes are intended to control or “manage” behavior, and such intent is contrary to the official Republican platform; and

WHEREAS, more congestion on our highways results in overflow traffic on secondary roads which detracts from our quality of life, hurts our businesses, and devalues our homes; and

WHEREAS, the private companies operating HOT lanes will demand a much higher rate of return than state-issued debt, thereby ultimately costing the taxpayer more than general purpose lanes; and

WHEREAS, tolling roads is an expensive and inefficient way to generate revenues for road funding as evidenced by North Carolina’s first toll road, the Triangle Expressway. The Triangle Expressway cost \$1B taxpayer dollars, lost nearly \$10 million in its first year of operation, is not expected to break even for another decade and in twenty years is projected to carry half the traffic I-77 does today; and

WHEREAS, money spent on HOT lanes is disposable income that will not be spent in local economies; and

WHEREAS, North Carolinians already pay the sixth highest gas tax in the nation and the highest tax rates in the Southeast, and such taxation hurts industrial growth, imposes economic pressure on families and crushes the entrepreneurial spirit; and

WHEREAS, our state has been toll free for over 200 years and Republicans will be blamed for this very unpopular plan; now, therefore be it

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RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Republican Party recognizes the sole source of revenue for roads- be it from tolls or taxes- is ultimately the people of North Carolina, and therefore be it further

RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Republican Party recognizes that HOT lanes are expensive, unpopular and ultimately do not solve congestion problems, and therefore be it further

RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Republican Party urges our elected leaders to oppose any plans for or legislation in favor of HOT Lanes, and therefore be it further

RESOLVED, that upon the approval of this resolution the North Carolina Republican Party shall deliver a copy of this resolution without delay to all relevant elected officials and bodies.