



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE  
GOVERNOR

EUGENE A. CONTI, JR.  
SECRETARY

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**NCDOT SECRETARY GENE CONTI ATTENDS  
HIGH SPEED RAIL ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — Transportation Secretary Gene Conti today attended a roundtable discussion with Vice President Joe Biden, Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood and several Governors from across the nation.

The panel of Governors joined the Vice President and Transportation Secretary to discuss the High Speed Rail Grant Program in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The Governors shared their ideas about High Speed Rail with the Obama administration in advance of the application process.

“Vice President Biden sent a clear message that the federal government is serious about expanding and enhancing rail in the US,” said Secretary Conti. “North Carolina has a strong rail tradition and we are prepared to aggressively pursue these funds.”

Like most states, North Carolina is not in the position currently to create very high-speed rail (200 mph). North Carolina is poised to apply for funds to build upon our existing systems. During the last 10 years, the N.C. Department of Transportation has invested about \$300 million to renovate or upgrade all stations, purchase the NC Railroad and reduce train travel time between Raleigh and Charlotte by one hour. North Carolina will add a third train to the two trains now running between Raleigh and Charlotte sometime this year.

Distribution of application guidelines should take place on or near June 17.

The following governors participated in the roundtable:

Jim Doyle, Wisconsin

Jennifer Granholm, Michigan

Tim Kaine, Virginia

Jay Nixon, Missouri

Deval Patrick, Massachusetts

Sonny Perdue, Georgia

Pat Quinn, Illinois

Ed Rendell, Pennsylvania

The following state transportation officials also attended the roundtable:

Chris Clement, Deputy Commissioner of Transportation, New Hampshire

Steve Dilts, Commissioner of Transportation, New Jersey

**MAILING ADDRESS:**  
NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE  
1503 MAIL SERVICE CENTER  
RALEIGH NC 27699-1503

TELEPHONE: 919-733-2522  
FAX: 919-733-9980  
CUSTOMER SERVICE: 1-877-368-4968

WEBSITE: [WWW.NCDOT.GOV](http://WWW.NCDOT.GOV)

**LOCATION:**  
TRANSPORTATION BUILDING  
1 SOUTH WILMINGTON STREET  
RALEIGH NC

Tim Gatz, Assistant Director of Administration, Oklahoma Department of Transportation  
Jim Larew, General Counsel and Deputy Chief of Staff, Iowa  
Michael Lewis, Director of Transportation, Rhode Island  
Paul Mattox, West Virginia Secretary of Transportation  
Jolene Molitoris, Director, Ohio Department of Transportation  
Acting Secretary Beverley Swaim-Staley, Maryland Department of Transportation  
Kirk Steudle, Director, Michigan Department of Transportation  
Gerald Nicely, Commissioner of Transportation, Tennessee  
David Crane Special Advisor to the Governor and Chair, High Speed Rail Commission,  
California.

For more information about recovery funding for infrastructure improvements in North Carolina, visit [www.ncdot.gov](http://www.ncdot.gov).

**\*\*\*NCDOT\*\*\***