RALEIGH, (SGRToday.com) - As Charlotte grows, so does the congestion on the Queen City's main transportation loop, I-485. And pressure is growing for the state to open a now-vacant lane that was built as part of a future toll road.

This week, Gov. Pat McCrory weighed in, saying in a statement that he and Transportation Secretary Tony Tata want to meet with local leaders " to discuss solutions for inadequate design, infrastructure and funding issues that were created years ago, which have been causing serious traffic congestion on I-485. We are open to reviewing and considering all viable options."

DOT build the now-vacant lane during a recent widening project. It is coned off from traffic until a future express lane project is built. The early building of the lane saved taxpayers $18 million, according to the governor and Tata.

"We are always committed to working as efficiently as possible to minimize cost and increase productivity as we build important connections," said Secretary Tata. "This project was designed to meet the needs of the community at the request of local leaders, and we will continue reviewing any options with local leaders to ensure we deliver the best solution for our citizens."