

\$2 Billion Infrastructure Bond Package Appears Headed For N.C. Ballot

By Administrator

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RALEIGH, (SGRToday.com) - Legislative leaders appear poised to approve a \$2 billion bond package that would put money into state buildings, college campuses, and local water and sewer projects.

The Senate is expected to give final approval this week, with the House set to weigh in next week. The package would then go to Gov. Pat McCrory and, with signature, go before voters next year.

State budget officials say the bonds would not result in a tax increase. They say the state's debt is relatively low and that debt is being paid down. Thus, by the time the bonds are sold, debt service for them would keep the state's debt load nearly where it is currently.

The package lays out \$980 million for the UNC System, \$350 million for community colleges, \$306 million for local and sewer projects, and \$100 million for parks and the state zoo.

Gov. McCrory had proposed a larger bond package that included money for roads. The legislative, however, included nearly \$705 million for roads in the new state budget, which the governor signed into law.

The deal being voted on now appears to be the result of negotiations between the House, the Senate, and the governor.