

TOWN OF SILER CITY, NC

2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Chatham County Legislative Breakfast – March 18, 2026

I Municipal Infrastructure & Transportation Funding

Challenge

Municipalities are responsible for maintaining streets, sidewalks, and stormwater infrastructure while costs continue to rise and funding sources remain limited.

Legislative Request

Support increased and sustainable municipal infrastructure funding, including continued expansion of Powell Bill funding and additional support for sidewalks, stormwater, and parks infrastructure.

Community Impact

Expanded infrastructure funding will help municipalities maintain safe transportation networks, address aging infrastructure, and support economic growth.

2 Regional Water & Wastewater Infrastructure

Challenge

Growing communities must make significant investments in water and wastewater infrastructure to ensure reliable service and support future development.

Legislative Request

Support continued state funding and financing programs for regional water and wastewater systems, including infrastructure upgrades and regional partnerships such as TriRiver Water, along with programs administered through the State Water Infrastructure Authority.

Community Impact

Regional water systems improve reliability, support economic development, and ensure long-term sustainability for communities across North Carolina.

3 Public Safety Facilities Revolving Fund

Challenge

Many municipalities lack affordable financing options to construct or modernize fire stations, police facilities, and emergency services infrastructure.

Legislative Request

Establish a statewide Public Safety Facilities Revolving Fund that provides zero- or low-interest financing to municipalities for construction and modernization of fire stations, police facilities, and EMS facilities.

Community Impact

Improved public safety infrastructure strengthens emergency response capabilities and helps communities maintain safe and effective emergency services.

4 Downtown Revitalization & Economic Development

Challenge

Downtown districts serve as economic and cultural centers for many communities but often require infrastructure upgrades and revitalization efforts to remain competitive.

Legislative Request

Support state funding programs that assist municipalities with downtown revitalization initiatives, including streetscape improvements, façade programs, infrastructure upgrades, and small business development.

Community Impact

Investment in downtown areas strengthens small businesses, attracts private investment, and supports vibrant local economies.

MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

Background

Municipalities across North Carolina are responsible for maintaining critical infrastructure including streets, sidewalks, stormwater systems, and parks that support residents, businesses, and economic development. Rising construction costs and aging infrastructure have significantly increased the financial burden placed on local governments.

Programs such as the Powell Bill provide an important funding source for municipal street maintenance. However, current funding levels have not kept pace with infrastructure needs as communities grow and transportation demands increase. Additional transportation funding for municipal streets and safety improvements is essential to maintaining safe and reliable transportation networks.

Why This Matters to Siler City

The Town of Siler City Strategic Plan prioritizes infrastructure maintenance, ADA sidewalk improvements, stormwater management, and long-term capital planning. Maintaining safe streets, improving pedestrian connectivity, and addressing aging infrastructure are critical to supporting residents, businesses, and economic development.

Improved road conditions and safer transportation networks also directly support the Town's public safety and infrastructure goals.

Legislative Action Requested

Support increased and sustainable funding for municipal infrastructure and transportation, including:

- Continued expansion of Powell Bill funding for municipal street maintenance
- Expanded state transportation funding for municipal roads and safety improvements
- Funding opportunities for sidewalks and pedestrian connectivity (State provide a portion of the local 20% match of Federal funded projects)
- Investment in stormwater infrastructure
- Support for parks and recreation infrastructure

REGIONAL WATER & WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Background

Reliable water and wastewater infrastructure is essential to public health, environmental protection, and economic development. Communities across North Carolina are investing in infrastructure upgrades and regional systems to strengthen long-term reliability and expand service capacity.

Regional water systems allow municipalities to share resources, improve operational efficiency, and better plan for future infrastructure needs while ensuring resilient and sustainable service delivery.

Why This Matters to Siler City

The Town of Siler City merged with TriRiver Water, which strengthened water and wastewater infrastructure and improved long-term system reliability for residents and businesses.

The TriRiver Water merger represents a proactive regional solution that strengthens infrastructure reliability while supporting long-term economic development and responsible growth.

Water and sewer capacity are essential to responsible growth, infrastructure resilience, and economic development. Continued state investment will help communities modernize aging infrastructure and ensure reliable service for future generations.

Legislative Action Requested

Support increased state funding and financial tools for regional water and wastewater infrastructure, including continued investment through programs administered by the State Water Infrastructure Authority and other state infrastructure funding programs.

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITIES REVOLVING FUND

Background

Communities across North Carolina face significant financial challenges when constructing or modernizing fire stations, police facilities, and emergency services infrastructure. Unlike water and wastewater infrastructure, there is currently no dedicated statewide financing program designed to assist municipalities with public safety facilities.

A statewide Public Safety Facilities Revolving Fund, modeled after existing water infrastructure financing programs, would provide municipalities with access to low-interest financing options for construction and modernization of essential emergency services facilities.

Why This Matters to Siler City

The Town of Siler City Strategic Plan emphasizes long-range public safety planning and sustainable funding for facilities and staffing. As communities grow, municipalities must ensure that emergency services infrastructure keeps pace with service demands.

Providing affordable financing tools would allow communities to improve public safety infrastructure while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

Legislative Action Requested

Establish a statewide Public Safety Facilities Revolving Fund that provides zero- or low-interest financing to municipalities for construction and modernization of:

- Fire stations
- Police facilities
- EMS facilities

DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Background

Downtown districts serve as the economic and cultural centers of many communities across North Carolina. Strategic investment in downtown infrastructure, streetscapes, and small business development helps attract visitors, encourage private investment, and support local entrepreneurship.

Many municipalities rely on state funding programs to support revitalization initiatives that strengthen downtown areas and support economic growth.

Why This Matters to Siler City

Downtown Siler City plays an important role in supporting local businesses, community events, and economic activity. Strategic investment in downtown infrastructure helps preserve community character, support economic development, and encourage private investment.

Downtown revitalization efforts also support broader community goals including growth management, preservation of community character, and infrastructure capacity alignment.

Legislative Action Requested

Support state funding programs that assist municipalities with downtown revitalization initiatives, including:

- Streetscape improvements
- Downtown infrastructure upgrades
- Façade improvement programs
- Small business development initiatives