BUILD SC STRONG

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Biggest Issues for SC's Concrete Industry in 2026

South Carolina's tremendous economic and population growth is driving unprecedented demand for new homes, manufacturing facilities, and roads and bridges across the state. These priorities focus on keeping construction moving, growing the workforce, and supporting continued job creation.

Growth, Jobs, and Infrastructure

Modernize Weight-Limit Policies & Ensure Fair Enforcement

- Ensure bridge postings and route weight limits are clearly marked, up to date, and consistently applied, so concrete producers and drivers can plan safe, legal routes.
- Establish fair and reasonable fines and fees that recognize situations where concrete trucks have no practical or safe alternative route due to plant location, project site access, or posted bridges.
- Develop a fair heavy truck specific weight policy that reflects modern equipment, material densities, and the essential, time-sensitive nature of concrete delivery.
- Improve coordination and apply consistent enforcement standards between SCDOT and State Transport Police to avoid conflicting guidance and unintended violations.

Why it matters:

Unclear postings, inconsistent enforcement, and steep fines force trucks to haul less, increase costs, and delay projects—even when no alternate routes exist.

Expand Workforce Development and Training

- Increase funding for technical colleges and skilled-trades programs.
- Support Be Pro Be Proud, a statewide initiative promoting skilled-trade careers, and Job Development Tax Credits.
- Strengthen pipelines into construction and manufacturing careers.

Why it matters:

Workforce shortages are already limiting project capacity, and SC will need more than 150,000 additional construction workers by 2035 to meet growth and infrastructure demands.

Modernize SCDOT and Move Projects Faster

- Improve how SCDOT plans, permits, and manages projects to better reflect today's growth, construction demands, and workforce realities.
- Reduce project delays caused by lengthy permitting, duplicative reviews, and inconsistent coordination between state agencies, local governments, utilities, and private-sector partners.
- Support legislative and administrative reforms that streamline project delivery, shorten timelines, and improve coordination across agencies — building on the work of the House DOT Ad Hoc Committee and other transportation, regulatory, and infrastructure initiatives.

Why it matters:

Improving how projects move forward helps ensure taxpayer dollars are used efficiently while keeping up with economic and population growth.

Strengthen Funding for Transportation and Economic Development

- Use current budget surpluses to fund bridge repair and replacement, including the Governor's proposed $1 billion investment in roads and bridges.
- Set aside ongoing revenue for long-term transportation projects that support growth and job creation.
- Direct a portion of new revenue generated by economic and population growth to support SCDOT and transportation-funding needs.

Why it matters:

With strong revenues driven by SC's growth, this is an opportunity to fix aging bridges now and create reliable funding for future transportation needs.

Legal, Tax, and Regulatory Climate

Fix Statute of Repose and Advance Tort Reform

- Close loopholes that extend liability indefinitely.
- Set a clear 10-year limit on construction liability.
- Pursue insurance reforms to reduce escalating costs.

Why it matters:

Unlimited liability drives up insurance premiums and raises the costs of building in SC.

Lower Income Taxes to Support Growth and Investment

- Continue reducing the state income tax rate below 6 percent.
- Return savings to workers and employers while also directing funds to urgent SCDOT transportation projects.

Why it matters:

Lower taxes help businesses reinvest and workers keep more of their paychecks, while supporting critical infrastructure needs.

Workforce shortages and permitting delays are slowing critical projects.



SC's growth is outpacing its infrastructure.

Reform Business Personal Property Taxes

- Provide exemptions for a portion of business equipment, primarily benefiting small and mid-size businesses.
- Reduce long-term taxes on basic equipment so companies can reinvest and grow.

Why it matters:

Taxing the same equipment year after year reduces cash available to hire, expand, and reinvest—especially for smaller businesses.

Reduce Manufacturing Property Tax Burdens

- Continue lowering manufacturing property tax rates.
- Align rates more closely with owner-occupied commercial property.

Why it matters:

Competitive tax rates help attract and retain manufacturers that drive construction demand and long-term job growth.

Streamline Regulations and Permitting

- Reduce outdated or duplicative regulations among the more than 80,000 currently on the books.
- Remove unnecessary rules while keeping commonsense protections in place.
- Improve coordination across SCDOT, DNR, and LLR to speed up reviews and approvals.

Why it matters:

SC is highly regulated, and many rules stay on the books indefinitely. Cutting outdated red tape while keeping necessary safeguards makes it easier to do business and move projects forward.

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