

Money sought to widen I-85

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Oct 08

greenvilleonline.com

COLUMBIA — The chairman of the Senate Finance Committee today asked state transportation officials to find funding to complete widening of Interstate 85 to the North Carolina border, arguing that more transportation [money](#)

[has](#) gone to other areas of the state over the past 15 years.

Sen. Hugh Leatherman of Florence, who not only chairs the Senate [Finance](#)

[Committee](#) but also the Joint Bond Review Committee, made his remarks at the end of a meeting of the state Transportation Infrastructure Bank, another panel on which he sits.

Two other segments of I-85 improvements and widening, from Greenville to Cherokee County, are among the seven projects the state Department of Transportation board has asked the Infrastructure Bank to [help](#)

[fund](#) with bonds issued as a result of this year's legislative appropriation.

The board delayed action on that request today after one [member](#)

[said](#) he had not had enough time to review the projects.

DOT Chairman Johnny Edwards of Travelers Rest said the segment discussed by Leatherman is about 10 miles long and would [cost](#)

[about](#) \$171 million.

If funded, that would leave a section stretching from Anderson County to the Georgia line as the lone segment of the busy interstate that has not been widened.