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Bellamy pushes for infrastructure

Compiled by [Dale Neal](#)

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RALEIGH — Local economies in the mountains are suffering in part because they don't have access to enough clean water and wastewater treatment, Asheville Mayor Terry Bellamy told state officials Wednesday.

Bellamy spoke along with lawmakers, school officials and business leaders at a news conference in Raleigh to urge the state to make large investments to expand the state's roads, schools, water access, affordable housing and other infrastructure.

They said the state must consider all sources of funding for such projects, including borrowing that voters would have to approve, or various kinds of taxes.

Asheville is preparing to issue more than \$35 million in debt to pay for waterlines, Bellamy said. But other needs are pressing, from classrooms to the proposed Interstate 26 connector.

"We're doing our part," she said. "It would be nice for the state to come and help us."

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