



Lorri Burns BENNETT

ANSON COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD AT LARGE

- Commitment to Student Success
- Financial & Policy Literacy
- Integrity & Ethical Standards
- Strategic Thinking
- Collaborative Mindset
- Cultural Competence
- Advocacy & Community Engagement



Paid for by the Committee to Elect Lorri Burns Bennett



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State Shifting NEVI Strategy to Put EV Charging Stations Where Needed Most

The N.C. Department of Transportation is adjusting its approach to placing electric vehicle charging stations, aiming to direct more resources to communities and rural areas where coverage is limited. The shift follows new federal guidance that gives states greater flexibility in where National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Program funds can be used.

Under the revised strategy, NCDOT will scale back the number of EV charging stations planned along major interstates and highways and instead focus more NEVI funding on areas with fewer existing chargers. State officials say the change will help create a more balanced, statewide charging network.

"The revised guidance enables the department to focus its support in areas of the state where there are fewer chargers and greater needs," said State Transportation Secretary Daniel Johnson.

North Carolina received \$109 million in NEVI funding from the Federal Highway Administration to expand EV infrastructure along approved alternative fuel corridors and within communities. The first phase of the program began in 2024, with five businesses under contract to build and operate charging stations along major corridors such as Interstate 40 and U.S. 64.

Originally, NCDOT planned to build 50 NEVI-funded stations along these corridors. However, new federal guidance removed requirements such as a maximum 50-mile spacing between stations and allows states to account for existing privately operated chargers. As a result, NCDOT reduced the number of additional corridor locations from 41 to 16.

By investing fewer resources along already well-served corridors, officials plan to redirect funding to rural communities and highways with limited access to charging, including areas such as Interstate 26 in the mountains.

NCDOT recently published a map showing the 16 remaining corridor sites and plans to issue a request for proposals in late March for businesses interested in building and operating charging stations at those locations. The NEVI Program reimburses private companies up to 80 percent of eligible costs for five years, after which the stations are expected to operate independently.

Average American Hits Daily Energy Slump At 2:06 p.m.

Study puts a precise time on the post-lunch crash many already know too well

If your eyelids start feeling heavier right after lunch, you're not imagining it - and now there's a timestamp to prove it. A new national survey finds the average American's energy level bottoms out at exactly 2:06 p.m., confirming what office workers, students, and anyone staring at a glowing screen has long suspected.

The findings come from a survey of 2,000 Americans conducted by Talker Research which shows respondents believe they would need to double their current energy levels just to keep up with daily demands. The early afternoon slump has become a routine part of life rather than an occasional inconvenience.

Fatigue isn't just making people sleepy, it's affecting paychecks and happiness. Nearly three-quarters of respondents said higher energy levels would help them earn more money, while 71 percent said more energy would make them happier overall. More than half reported that low energy interferes with getting things done, and one in four said they are completely exhausted by the end of a workday.

When energy runs low, exercise is the first thing to go. Forty-four percent of respondents said fatigue keeps them from working out as often as they'd like. Social activities also take a hit, with 34 percent saying low energy limits time with friends, followed by outdoor activities at 31 percent and home-cooked meals at 29 percent.

Interestingly, when respondents were asked what they would do if they had unlimited energy, productivity didn't top the list. Instead, 18 percent said they would spend more time with family and friends, revealing that connection - not accomplishment - is what people crave most when exhaustion is no longer in the way.

Energy levels also appear to decline with age, with 44 percent of respondents saying they have less energy now than they did in earlier years. That decline contributes to feelings of guilt as well, particularly around skipped workouts, neglected self-care, and less time spent with loved ones.

The 2:06 p.m. slump may seem like a small detail, but for many Americans it marks the moment when the day's demands begin to outpace their energy. According to the study, that daily dip has ripple effects on health, happiness, and human connection, making the afternoon crash more than just a yawn-worthy moment.

**The
Compassionate
Friends**

The Compassionate Friends, a support group for parents, grandparents and siblings who have lost a child of any age, welcomes you to attend their monthly meetings. They meet on the second Thursday each month, at 7 p.m. at First Baptist Church on Lee Avenue in Wadesboro. "We need not walk alone."

For more information call Ken Caulder at 704-694-2524.

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Saturday, Feb. 7 WALKER GAINY ACOUSTIC 6-9PM

Sunday, Feb. 8 SUPER SUNDAY WATCH PARTY

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Friday 3-9pm

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