

# NCDOT TPD NEWS



NCDOT TPD Newsletter

January 2021

## TPD Statewide Initiatives

Below is a list of current initiatives being undertaken by NCDOT.

### NCDOT Logistics + Freight Bulletin

To sign up for the Logistics + Freight bulletin you can send an email to Dana Magliola at [damagliola@ncdot.gov](mailto:damagliola@ncdot.gov). Here are some highlights from the latest newsletter.

**The Top 10 freight bottlenecks** on the NCPHFN. Continuing the trend set since March, November 2020 congestion costs are down more than 45% year over year, dramatically lower by comparison to 2019.

**November trucking tonnage increases over October but** continues to lag 2019 figures. Trucking freight tonnage grew 3.7% in November reversing October's decline. Despite the good news, overall truck tonnage is down 3.8% compared to November 2019, now eight months of year-over-year decline.

#### **Continued improvement in air freight tonnage slowed in October:**

Air cargo volumes between the U.S. and international points increased 13% by weight during October, slowing from the highest YoY increase of the year in September.

#### **Federal 2021 appropriations may make short line tax credits permanent:**

In the consolidated appropriations bill for 2021, federal lawmakers extend the popular short line tax credit indefinitely. Introduced in 2005, the provision known as the 45G tax credit, currently offers a \$3,500 per mile tax credit for the construction, improvement, or maintenance of short line railways.

#### **COVID stimulus + 2021 appropriations bill:**

On 21 December, Congress passed relief and economic stimulus package with \$45B directed to transportation, beneficiaries include airlines with \$15B, and an additional \$2B for airports, \$14B for transit, \$10B for state highway agencies and projects, and a \$1B allocation for Amtrak.

### 2019 ACS Household income

According to data compiled from the latest American Community Survey, the Asheville MSA has the lowest rate of households reporting income coming from earnings (71.1%) of any MSA in North Carolina. This is matched with high percentages of household receiving Social Security (3rd – 39.9%) or other Retirement Income (2nd – 29.8%).

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*“Connecting people, products and places safely and efficiently with customer focus, accountability and environmental sensitivity to enhance the economy and vitality of North Carolina...”*

*- NCDOT Mission Statement*

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## Safety News

### Deadliest Months

October through January are statistically the deadliest months on North Carolina's roads.

### National News

Over 70% of the nation's roads are in areas that receive more than 5 inches of snow annually. In 2019 there were in 679 fatalities, 42,000 injury crashes & 171,000 crashes with property damage in snowy & icy road conditions. Plan ahead & stay alert this winter.

*“Somehow, we'll find it. The balance between whom we wish to be and whom we need to be. But for now, we simply have to be satisfied with who we are.”*

**— Brandon Sanderson**

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## 2021 Watch for Me NC

North Carolina communities interested in participating in the 2021 Watch for Me NC safety program may now submit applications. The program focuses on reducing bicycle and pedestrian injuries and fatalities through public education, community engagement partnerships with local law enforcement. Selected communities selected will receive free law enforcement training, technical assistance and safety tools provided by NCDOT and the UNC Highway Safety Research Center. In addition, communities will receive support that is individually customized, helping them plan outreach, share opportunities, and troubleshoot challenges. Applications are due Feb. 1, 2021 and can be submitted online via the Watch for Me NC website.

## Highway Safety Program Grants

The N.C. Governor's Highway Safety Program is accepting grant applications to fund programs aimed at preventing traffic deaths and injuries on North Carolina roadways. Applications will be accepted starting Jan. 1, 2021. Submissions must be made no later than 5 p.m. on Jan. 31.

## NCDOT Overall News

### Rail Station Planning Grants

The Federal Transit Authority has awarded the N.C. Department of Transportation's Integrated Mobility Division a \$900,000 grant to help Triangle area communities create plans for development along the S-Line rail corridor. The S-Line corridor is a passenger rail line that runs from the Virginia border, through Raleigh, and to the South Carolina state line.

The following towns revived the grant: Apex, Franklinton, Henderson, Raleigh, Sanford, and Wake Forest. The towns will use the grant money to develop plans for the areas around the rail stations. The plans will explore how the rail stations will bolster economic development in their town centers and enable these communities to plan for connections to bus service, micro transit, bicycle paths, and greenways.

### Dare County Bridge receives Award

The Marc Basnight Bridge in Dare County has been named 2020's 'Bridge of the Year' by American Infrastructure magazine. The 2.8-mile bridge, which spans Oregon Inlet, opened to traffic in February 2019 and replaced the Herbert C. Bonner Bridge. The honor is only the latest for the bridge, which has previously earned the Project of the Year award from the American Society for Civil Engineers, an Award of Excellence from the American Segmental Bridge Institute, and a Sustainable Design Award from the Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute. Basnight, the bridge's namesake was a North Carolina state legislator and died December 28, 2020.

### Gifting a Drone for the Holidays

It is the holiday season and drones are a popular gift, but it is important new owners take the time to learn how to safely fly an unmanned aircraft. With a growing number of drone owners in North Carolina, NCDOT is reminding new pilots to:

- Always fly within 400 feet of the ground;
- Never fly near airports;
- Avoid flying over events or crowds; and
- Do not fly at night, even if the drone has lights.

## End of Year Cash Report

NCDOT Cash Watch Number Report for Dec. 31, 2020 reached \$1,095,395,487 in Unreserved Cash roughly split 60/40 between the Highway Fund and the Highway Trust Fund.

### Contact Us

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