

NCDOT TPD NEWS



NCDOT TPD Newsletter

May 2020

TPD Statewide Initiatives

Below is a list of current initiatives being undertaken by the Transportation Planning Division.

Watch for Me NC Announces New 2020 Partners

Seven new communities will soon benefit from participation in Watch for Me NC, a comprehensive pedestrian and bicycle safety program aimed at reducing bicycle and pedestrian crashes and fatalities in North Carolina.

The Watch for Me NC program, now in its fourth year, provides training for law enforcement officers on ways to improve safety for road users in their areas. Communities also will receive technical assistance, materials and purchased media promotion such as radio advertisements to raise public awareness about pedestrian and bicycle safety.

The new partners join 23 returning communities, which include the City of Asheville and Transylvania County.

Bike & Pedestrian Planning Grants

2020 Call for Studies Now Open

Municipalities and counties have a good incentive for developing plans that focus on bicycle and pedestrian projects. The "Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant Initiative" encourages plans that focus on enhancing mobility, improving safety, and promoting economic and health benefits.

The program is sponsored by the department's Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation. Since 2004, the program has awarded about \$6.5 million to 211 municipalities and six counties.

Applications must be submitted electronically by 5 p.m. on **June 30 (Updated)**. Award recipients will be notified by September.

<https://connect.ncdot.gov/municipalities/PlanningGrants/Pages/Planning-Grant-Initiative.aspx>

"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

Safety News

Bike and Pedestrian Safety

The stay at home order continues, and more people are choosing to get outside for a walk or a bike ride. Remember to maintain safe social distance to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

NCDOT is also reminding walkers, cyclists and motorists to stay alert, avoid distractions and be courteous of others.

"Be thankful for what you have; you'll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never, ever have enough"

— Oprah Winfrey

FHWA Offers Value Capture Virtual Peer Exchanges

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is now offering a series of free virtual [peer exchanges](#) on the topic of value capture through the Center for Innovative Finance Support. Beginning on May 7 through October 22, FHWA presenters and local experts will share best practices and examples of value capture strategies to finance public infrastructure improvements. The online series covers successful approaches to help fill transportation funding gaps including transportation impact fees, special assessments, tax increment finance, transportation utility fees, joint development, and value captured from existing assets. Interested participants can register [here](#) for the first webinar on May 7, 2020 at 1:00-3:00 PM ET.

Traffic Forecasts (TF)

Project Level Traffic Forecasting has been largely curtailed to conform to the current cash flow needs of the department. The only Current Forecast underway or under development is:

H140327: Merrimon Avenue Feasibility Study draft review completed

H171907: North Asheville Connector Study model runs being done for four scenarios

NCDOT Cash Balance Update

This is an attempt to give some updates on the NCDOT cash balance. This is a fast-moving topic and these sources could be out of date at any moment. For example, the anticipated revenue loss for the rest of the fiscal year increased from \$200 million to \$300 million in twenty days.

As of 05-05-2020

- NCDOT is below its cash.
- Projection of more than \$300 million in lost revenue for this fiscal year, which ends June 30.
- An additional shortfall of more than \$370 million is projected for FY21.

What NCDOT CAN do while below the cash floor:

- Continue active projects
- Maintain existing infrastructure with existing supplies and staff
- Pay incoming invoices from private sector companies as long as funds exist
- Continue operating DMV functions
- Respond to emergency situations (with existing staff and materials)
- Hire new employees for critical, safety-related positions or DMV functions

What NCDOT CANNOT do while below the cash floor:

- Negotiate right of way purchases on projects not underway
- Purchase additional equipment, supplies or services for transportation projects unless obligated to make such a purchase in an existing contract
- Award new construction, engineering, or repair contracts

NCDOT Overall News

To assist N.C. Division of Motor Vehicle customers and partners in dealing with the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, a provision included in the COVID-19 bill signed into law today by Governor Cooper grants a five-month extension of the expiration date on more than two dozen DMV credentials including drivers licenses, vehicle registration, and license plate.

Contact Us

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