

NCDOT TPD NEWS



NCDOT TPD Newsletter

June 2021

TPD Statewide Initiatives

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

NCDOT Resiliency Report

NCDOT is finalizing its first ever resiliency report. Per Governor Cooper's Executive Order #80, NCDOT will published the NC Climate Risk Assessment and Resilience Plan in June of this year and it requires an update each year to articulate the steps taken and those to be taken.

Multiple Hazard Types will be considered

There are four broad categories that include eighteen types including Flooding, Wildfires, Fog, Severe Wind, Tornado, Hurricane, Landslides, Sinkholes, Snow, Ice, and more. These will be updated annually.

Hitting the ground running

The report outlines seventeen short term strategies organized into seven overarching categories, to be enacted over the next year. The Transportation Planning Division is taking the lead on two of these short term items: first, to conduct a vulnerability assessment of STCs and second, to incorporate resiliency assessment into Long Range Plans.

Three new data sets, and more to come

Predictive Primary Road Inundation is an example of how to proactively use the data available to incorporate resilience maps into long range planning. Using data you can see how flood inundation will affect projects, document potential project inundation, note roads that are parallel to inundation, and follow planning guidelines for inundation levels. To evaluate storm surge risk NCDOT has completed an evaluation of 20 coastal counties in the **Coastal Roadway Inundation Simulator**, or CRIS. Flood inundation or water over the land was mapped at foot increments above sea level. The **Geotech Asset Management Database** provides information about individual occurrences of embankment, landslides, rockfall, rockslides, and historic events at specific locations.

Ongoing Resilience Projects

- US Army Core of Engineers Flood Risk Feasibility Studies on Neuse, Tar-Pamlico, and Lumber River Basins
- Flood Risk Feasibility Studies on I-95/I-40 and US-17/US-258
- Pilot Vulnerability Assessments on US 74, US 70, I-40, and NC 12
- Rail Flood Inundation Mapping

“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

100 Deadliest Days of Summer

The first week of June begins the 100 deadliest days of summer, when the number of crash fatalities involving **teenage** drivers rises. More people, including teens, travel between Memorial Day and Labor Day, and with COVID restrictions easing, more people are expected to be on the roads than last year.

“If you're not having fun, you have the design wrong.”

— Geoff Lawton

New Commercial Trucking Alert System

NCDOT is taking a novel approach to reducing the risk of commercial truck crashes to help keep work zones and highways flowing smoothly. The department is partnering with Intelligent Imaging Systems, a Canada-based company that provides innovative connected-truck technology, including in-cab communications. The in-truck messaging provides real-time alerts of urgent road conditions. The alerts will help commercial drivers react more quickly before encountering stopped traffic or major slowdowns. The first-in-the nation pilot will cover all 182 miles of Interstate 95 and the rural portions of Interstate 40 outside the Triangle, the Triad, and Asheville.

The new alerts will have messages such as "Sudden Slowdown Ahead" and "Congestion Ahead" about 2 or 3 miles before commercial truck drivers encounter the slowed traffic or incident. Information will be in real time via INRIX.

Traffic Forecast

HE-0001

The forecast for HE-0001 is using an accelerated process to meet the delivery schedule. Instead of the usual review, staff is working with the consultant to do reviews every few weeks as milestones are reached. Multiple future scenarios are being tested, including full and partial build outs of the site.

NCDOT Overall News

Prestigious National Award

The National Association of Environmental Professionals awarded Division 14 with the Environmental Excellence Award in Environmental Management, Stewardship, Conservation, and Protection during its annual awards in May. This award was for their efforts in planning a highway project in Graham County known as Corridor K Improvements.

Division 14 Engineer Wanda Austin said during the virtual ceremony. "This project, more than 50 years in the making, has turned into a very collaborative effort between lots of stakeholders."

NCDOT used an integrated planning process focused on collaboration with public officials, stakeholders, and agency groups since restarting the project in 2015. NCDOT screened out unfeasible options and chose to improve the existing route to improve mobility and access to emergency facilities, educational institutions, and employment centers outside Graham County. The selected design reduced environmental impacts by more than 50 percent compared to other proposed four-lane alternatives.

The project includes a 270-foot-wide land bridge — the first in North Carolina — that will relocate a section of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and serve as a migratory route for animals including bear, deer, elk and other wildlife.

Austin's acceptance speech included thanking local officials from Graham County, Cherokee County, environmental advocacy groups including the Wilderness Society, Defenders of Wildlife, Way South, MountainTrue, Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition, and the Southern Environmental Law Center.

NCDOT Cash Report

NCDOT Cash Watch Number Report for June 3, 2021 reached \$1,944,051,810 in Unreserved Cash roughly split 65/35 between the Highway Fund and the Highway Trust Fund.

Contact Us

Daniel Sellers, PE

NCDOT TPD

1 S. Wilmington St
Raleigh, NC

(919) 707-0978
dcsellers1@ncdot.gov

Visit us on the web at
www.ncdot.gov