

NCDOT TPD NEWS



NCDOT Transportation Planning Division (TPD) Newsletter

May 2022

TPD Statewide Initiatives

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

Statewide Multimodal Freight Plan Update Forum

The N.C. Department of Transportation will host two virtual forums to gather input on freight needs and challenges throughout the state. Your participation will help inform the Multimodal Freight Plan Update and identify ways that NCDOT can support the efficient and effective movement of freight.

- May 17, 2022, from 3-5 p.m.
- May 19, 2022, from 10 a.m.-noon

In 2017 NCDOT created a Statewide Multimodal Freight Plan that set goals and strategies to improve economic competitiveness, increase jobs and enhance quality of life. While progress has been made on the freight-specific recommendations outlined in that plan, the 2022 North Carolina Statewide Multimodal Freight Plan Update will look to the future by:

- Addressing recent changes in the freight market
- Identifying ways to enhance economic development opportunities and competitiveness through more streamlined freight movement
- Improving freight system efficiency and reliability while enhancing safety and security
- Identifying and implementing new freight technologies to improve reliability and efficiency
- Meeting new federal requirements identified in the latest Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), as well as the previous requirements under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act which ensures that North Carolina can utilize National Freight Program funds.

“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

Work Zone Safety

NC has had 206 **deaths** in work zones since 2016.

The 6,266 work zones crashes in 2021 was **up 5%** from the previous year.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation estimated more than 50% of crashes in work zones in 2021 involved **speeding** or **distracted driving**. And nearly 75% of work-zone crashes last year happened **during the day**.

“Spring is the season for work zones, repairs or new construction on the road and that is going to require additional awareness on the part of motorists,” said Mark Ezzell, director of the North Carolina Governor’s Highway Safety Program.

“Only your friends steal your books.”

- Voltaire

Traffic Forecasts

HE-0001; new interchange on I-26, Updated 4/11/2022

HB-0005; Replace bridges on I-40 over Coleman Mtn Rd, delivered 10/27/2021

I-2513; I-26 Connector, In Review

U-5832; NC 81 Swannanoa River Rd, delivered 1/17/2022

U-6158; intersection improvements at US 276 and Raccoon Rd, delivered 5/20/2021

Other studies:

Black Mountain Road Diet, B-5982 (Bridge on US 74 over Southern Railroad), BR-0145 (Bridge on NC 208 over Laurel Shelton Creek), and BR-0157 (Bridge on US 19W over Cane River)

FHWA Funding for Electric Vehicles

In order to accelerate the deployment of EV chargers, FHWA is highlighting the policies and funding available today for partners in States, Tribes, Territories, metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), and Federal land management agencies (FLMAs) to build out electric vehicle chargers along the National Highway System.

Secretary of Transportation speaks at TRB

The U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg addressed the Transportation Research Board (TRB) 2022 Annual Meeting. Secretary Buttigieg answered questions from TRB Executive Committee Chair Susan Shaheen of University of California, Berkeley and TRB Vice Chair Nat Ford of Jacksonville Transportation Authority. The Secretary discussed an array of topics, including the National Roadway Safety Strategy, equity, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and supply chain issues. Video is available online at <https://tinyurl.com/2p8ze59r>

NCDOT Overall News

New Rest Area Opens on I-26 East

A new rest area off Interstate 26 at the Buncombe/Henderson County line is set to open on May 6th. The modern facility features high ceilings, fine wood finishes, energy efficient plumbing, lots of natural light, and plenty of space for four-legged family members. It also features tons of parking for its visitors. The corresponding westbound rest area is set to open in the middle of June.

“NCDOT takes great pride in its rest areas, not only in the mountains, but across the state,” Division 13 Roadside Environmental Engineer Jeff Wait said. “Some of the finest rest areas in the country are located right here in western North Carolina. And depending on who you ask, this may be the best.”

NCDOT Cash Report

NCDOT Cash Watch Number Report for April 29, 2022, reached \$2,449,378,353 in Unreserved Cash roughly split 60/40 between the Highway Fund and the Highway Trust Fund.

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