

NCDOT TPD NEWS



NCDOT Transportation Planning Division (TPD) Newsletter

February 2022

TPD Statewide Initiatives

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

NCAMPO Annual Conference Information

The NCAMPO Conference is back for the first time since 2019 and registration is now open! The 2022 Conference, which will take place at the Wilmington Convention Center on April 20-22, aims to reimagine transportation for a safe, healthy, and resilient post-pandemic North Carolina. Presentation topics will span all modes and include transportation innovation, transportation funding, big data, regional policy and growth, virtual engagement, and much more. In addition to plenary and technical breakout sessions, this year's conference offers a wide range of mobile tour opportunities from a bike ride through historic downtown to a tour of the North Carolina Port of Wilmington.

For more information and registration please follow this link:
<https://www.ncampo.org/ncampo-state-conference/>

Transylvania County CTP

TPD Staff is reviewing the highway, bicycle, pedestrian, and public transportation proposals in preparation for public comment on the proposals. Staff has been applying the clarified Complete Streets guidance. The Complete Streets policy has not changed but the implementation guidance was update recently. TPD has been coordinating with the Integrated Modality Division (IMD) who facilitates the Complete Streets guidance, and review is ongoing about the appropriate level of detail for long range planning.

Upcoming CTP Committee meetings will be reviewing all this information, results of the analysis, and any next steps at upcoming meetings tentatively planned for March and April.

NCDOT 2022 Transportation Summit

NC Transportation Summit was in January 19-20, 2022. This two-day event included a variety of sessions with opportunities to hear from transportation industry leaders, to see new cutting-edge technologies and to network. To view the recorded sessions please follow this link:

<https://www.ncdot.gov/news/nc-transportation-summit/Pages/default.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

North Carolina has already been hit by four severe winter storms.

Staff in Divisions 13 and 14 worked around the clock to salt, sand, and clear the roads, but driving during and after rain, ice, or snow can still be dangerous.

NCDOT lists guidelines on our website that can help, but the only way to be certain is to stay off the roads during these events.

“The Road goes ever on and on down from the door where it began. Now far ahead the Road has gone, and I must follow, if I can”

– J.R.R. Tolkien

Traffic Forecasts

HE-0001; new interchange on I-26, delivered 6/29/2021

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

I-2513; I-26 Connector, Underway

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)

Contact Us

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2016–2020 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates

On March 17, the U.S. Census Bureau will release the standard, full suite of 2016–2020 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year data products—down to the block group level. Following pandemic-related data collection disruptions, the Census Bureau revised its methodology to reduce nonresponse bias in data collected in 2020. After evaluating the effectiveness of this methodology, the Census Bureau determined the resulting data are fit for public release, government and business uses, and understanding the social and economic characteristics of the U.S. population and economy.

NCDOT Overall News

Preconstruction conference

In January, NCDOT came together in another annual Preconstruction Conference. This workshop brought together those involved in preconstruction activities to hear how the NCDOT is moving towards efficient project delivery and facing obstacles. The workshop provided opportunities for face-to-face discussions with unit personnel and peers.

More Funding and Flexibility for Key Highway Safety Program

In guidance issued in February, FHWA outlined several changes to its Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) that can help state, local, and tribal transportation agencies save lives on the roads and bridges they own and operate. States now have more flexibility to use up to 10 percent of their HSIP funds for “specified safety projects” that include non-infrastructure safety projects such as public awareness campaigns, research, automated traffic enforcement systems, emergency services, and efforts to protect children such as Safe Routes to School activities.

The guidance also implements provisions that will help vulnerable road users who are considered to be most at risk for being involved in traffic crashes that result in fatalities. These road users include people who walk, bike, and use personal conveyances. It adds a Vulnerable Road User Safety Special Rule to the HSIP. Under the rule, if vulnerable road users make up 15 percent or more of the total number of fatalities in a state in a given year, the state is required to dedicate at least 15 percent of its HSIP funds the following fiscal year to projects that address the safety of these road users. Additionally, the new guidance incorporates legislative changes to permit 100% Federal funding for certain pedestrian and bicyclist projects.

NCDOT Cash Report

NCDOT Cash Watch Number Report for February 3, 2022, reached \$2,077,953,137 in Unreserved Cash roughly split 55/45 between the Highway Fund and the Highway Trust Fund.