

NCDOT TPD NEWS



NCDOT Transportation Planning Division (TPD) Newsletter

May 2024

TPD Statewide Initiatives

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

1 Year Anniversary: Clean Transportation Plan

The Clean Transportation Plan, released on April 6, 2023, outlined a roadmap to continue growing the state's clean energy economy while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and investing in cleaner and more accessible transportation options for all North Carolinians.

"We're working hard to ensure North Carolina citizens can take full advantage of the transition to a clean energy economy and the financial opportunities it brings for every day families," said Governor Roy Cooper. "We have surpassed our initial goal of new zero-emission vehicle registrations and continue to invest in charging infrastructure across the state, particularly in economically disadvantaged communities. North Carolina is the clean energy epicenter of the world and we'll continue to lead the transition to our clean energy future."

After achieving so much in one year, the coming years NCDOT plans to:

- Continue working with the public and stakeholders on ways to reduce transportation-related pollution through education and outreach;
- Pursue new federal funding opportunities to build a more robust and equitable multimodal transportation system.
- Develop and implement strategies to increase state funding for clean transportation activities and projects that reduce emissions;
- Expand the capacity and resources of the Clean Transportation Team.
- Continue expanding North Carolina's multimodal transportation network to provide more travel options for residents and increase access and mobility for underserved populations;
- Explore options to reduce emissions from construction materials and other activities related to the construction of transportation infrastructure;
- Recommend the implementation of various transportation demand management and vehicle miles traveled reduction strategies to increase the efficiency of the transportation network.

Learn more about by visiting the [Climate Change & Clean Energy](#) website.

NCDOT 2023 Wildflower Awards

In 1985, the North Carolina Department of Transportation launched its [Wildflower Program](#) with just 12 acres of roadside land adorned with wildflower beds. The initiative has flourished, and almost four decades later hundreds of acres of wildflower beds are planted and meticulously maintained on roadsides statewide. The program's success is due to NCDOT's employees, who were honored this week during the 2023 Wildflower Awards.

Division 13 took home one of the ten prizes for the planting along US 25/70 at South Windy Ridge Road in Madison County.

"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

National Distracted Driving Awareness Month

Distracted driving comes in many forms, but cell phone use while driving has become the most prevalent. Texting while driving is illegal in North Carolina and a violation of this law could result in a fine. Do your part by putting away your phone until you've safely arrived at your destination.

"Why should we look to the past in order to prepare for the future? Because there is nowhere else to look."

- James Burke

TPD Overall News

Traffic Forecast

H192727 / H192735; Hendersonville- Completed
Modernization of Signal Hill Road, Thompson Street, Berkely Road from US 64 to US 25
Business and Modernization of Duncan Hill Road from US 64 to Signal Hill Road.

U-2801A; Sweeten Creek Rd. – Completed
Widen a stretch of Sweeten Creek Road (U.S. 25A) in Asheville from two lanes to a four-lane divided roadway from Hendersonville Road (U.S. 25) to Rock Hill Road.

U-4739; Amboy Rd./Meadow Rd.- Completed
Widen Amboy and Meadow roads to a modernized roadway between I-240 and N.C. 81 (Biltmore Avenue).

CTP and MTP Schedules

FBRMPO CTP: meetings held with each county in March and April. Comments are being compiled with plan being to discuss those next month and take to the public before adoption in the summer.

FBRMPO MTP: consultants under contract for both the MTP study and the 2050 SE data study. Kick off meetings happening now. It's a long way to September 2025, but there is substantial work to do also.

Transylvania County CTP: Draft Plan back from communications office, to be reviewed internally by TPD. We've also started organizing the appendix into a document for publication. The plan is to finish these initial reviews in May.

NC By Train Ridership Continues to Grow

The state's passenger rail carried over 101,000 people in the first two months of this year, compared with 83,000 riders in the same months last year. That represents a 21% increase over 2023 and a 65% increase over pre-pandemic total of 61,000 in 2019. Then it had its highest-ever ridership month in March, carrying over 66,600 passengers.

"The ongoing record ridership shows that people love the service and are using it. We want even more people to see how using NC By Train can be an option for them," said Jason Orthner, NCDOT Rail Division director. "We're excited to partner with a variety of cities and organizations along the Piedmont Corridor between Raleigh and Charlotte to show people all the places and events they can get to using the train."

NCDOT Rail Division continues to support special schedules for North Carolina events. All trains will stop for the High Point Market April 13-17 and the Cheerwine Festival in Salisbury May 18. In addition to concerts, festivals and events, NC By Train is partnering with local sports teams to get riders on board. On May 12, people can take the train to High Point and then walk, take transit or request a rideshare less than a half a mile to the High Point Rockers stadium where NC By Train is the game day partner.

NCDMV Launches Kiosks

In an effort to shorten lines and wait times at offices across the state and provide services outside of typical office hours, the NCDMV is piloting the use of self-service kiosks in grocery stores. Customers can renew their license or state ID card (unless they renewed online last time); order a duplicate or change the address on their license, permit or state ID card; and apply/update their voter registration (only as part of a driver license/ID transaction listed above).

NCDOT Cash Report

NCDOT Cash Watch Number Report for April 26, 2024, reached \$2,400,396,036 in Unreserved Cash roughly split 75/25 between the Highway Fund and the Highway Trust Fund.

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