



The Multimodal Message

The latest news from the Multimodal Division of NCDOT
Bicycle/Pedestrian•Public Transportation•Aviation•Ferry•Rail

Keeping Pedestrians and Bicyclists Safe on Our Roads **Message from Deputy Secretary Julie White**

In this country we have implemented numerous safety improvements and policies to keep drivers safe on our roads. From seat belts to air bags to public awareness campaigns, the strategies have been plentiful and meaningful. Over the past 40 years, there has been a downward trend in vehicle crashes, and since the early 1980s there has been a steady decline in fatalities, even as vehicle miles traveled increased.

Despite these statistics, however, there is a troubling trend involving vehicle-related deaths. According to data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the proportion of people killed “outside the vehicle” (motorcyclists, pedestrians, bicyclists, and other nonoccupants) increased from a low of 20 percent in 1996 to a high of 33 percent in 2017. That means that while those of us driving cars on the road are now safer, pedestrians and bicyclists on our roads are facing increasing danger.

According to UNC’s Highway Safety Research Center, pedestrians and bicyclists represent approximately 12 percent of all motor vehicle crash fatalities in North Carolina. In 2016, approximately 2,200 pedestrians and 590 bicyclists were involved in crashes in North Carolina. Most of the people involved in those crashes were injured. More than one-third of North Carolina's 100 counties are above the statewide rate of pedestrian deaths when accounting for population. Six of those counties -- Bertie, Currituck, Halifax, Northampton, Pender and Warren -- are experiencing more than 18.5 pedestrian deaths per 100,000 people, more than twice the state’s fatality rate.

This should serve as a wake-up call for drivers, policy makers and transportation designers. We must pay more attention to those we share the road with, and we need to commit to ensuring their safety as well. We need better tracking and research, especially on bicycle injuries and crashes. We need to drill down into the causes of these crashes and explore technology and innovative strategies to reduce risks. The new edition of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)'s "Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways"—the MUTCD – is expected to give us more guidance on these kinds of strategies. The update will provide greater flexibility and promote innovation to improve travel for drivers, pedestrians and cyclists.

North Carolina has already taken steps in this direction with "[Watch for Me NC](#)," which works to reduce pedestrian and bicycle injuries and fatalities through public education, community engagement and high visibility law enforcement. Research has shown this program is effective in reducing pedestrian crashes by about 13 percent.

NCDOT is also in the process of updating the Complete Streets Policy and Design Guidelines. The policy update is focused on ensuring that NCDOT's transportation investments support improvements to all modes and will result in roadway projects that are context sensitive, balancing economic, safety and environmental objectives, and create safer facilities for all roadway users of all ages and abilities. Learn more about this process [online](#).

Our communities are demonstrating leadership on this issue as well. [Walk Friendly Communities](#), or WFC, recently renewed its designation of Asheville as a 'Silver' walk friendly city. That designation shows that Asheville has continued to make strides toward improving conditions for pedestrians and creating people-friendly streets. WFC is a national recognition program developed to encourage cities and towns to develop and support walking environments with an emphasis on safety, mobility, access and comfort. Applications are open now, with submissions due by Dec. 15 for cities and towns interested in joining the ranks of Walk Friendly Communities.

Raleigh Executive Jetport Celebrates Expansion



N.C. House Speaker Tim Moore, Rep. John Sauls and NCDOT officials, including Chief Deputy Secretary David Howard and Aviation Division Director Bobby Walston, joined local leaders at Raleigh Executive Jetport in Sanford recently for a groundbreaking ceremony for a new terminal building, as well as a ribbon-cutting for a newly widened taxiway.

These projects will support the continued growth of the airport as well as the economic development of the Sanford-Lee County area. The new two-story, 11,000-square-foot terminal building will act as a 'front door' for the community, welcoming business leaders and other visitors to the area. With the wider taxiway, Raleigh Executive Jetport is equipped to handle larger business jets.

The state funded the \$4 million terminal, while the \$5.3 million taxiway upgrade was funded through a mix of state and federal funds.



The Bicycle and Pedestrian Division is developing a pilot program to evaluate the performance of different kinds of temporary facilities in locations where scooters are being deployed. Stay tuned for more information.



Meet the Division Director Harold Thomas - Ferry Division

Harold Thomas was born and raised in eastern North Carolina and has worked for the North Carolina Ferry Division for 25 years. He started as a General Utility Worker and worked his way up through the ranks, earning a USCG Engineers License as well.

Mr. Thomas' goals are to make the Ferry Division a better place to work for all employees; to develop a long-range strategic plan for vessel replacement and facility upgrades and to increase vessel availability by streamlining shipyard maintenance and reducing the length of shipyard visits.

Thomas and Karen, his wife of 30 years, raised their family in Newport.

Walk to School Day 2018



Students across the state celebrated National Walk to School Day last month. Hanna Cockburn, director of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Division, joined Safe Routes to School for a feature event at A.B. Combs Magnet Elementary School in Raleigh. [Read more online.](#)



Passenger Ferry Progress

Stakeholders, including Sen. Harry Brown, Rep. Phil Shepard and Rep. George Cleveland, recently got an update on the progress of the Ocracoke Express at the US Workboats Shipyard in Swansboro.



Olli Challenge

The Public Transportation Division is leading a statewide initiative to bring “Olli” - the world’s first co-created, self-driving, low-speed, electric shuttle - to our state. The division is encouraging municipalities, campuses and districts to propose a three-month, local use for Olli in hopes of bringing a fleet of the vehicles to North Carolina.

[Learn More](#)

2019 Short Line Railroad Improvement Program Grants Awarded



Fourteen short line railroads across the state recently received approximately \$7 million in matching grant funds as part of the N.C. Department of Transportation’s Short Line Improvement Program.

The program supports short line rail infrastructure health and performance, enabling NCDOT to partner with short line rail companies on rail improvement projects.

Since 2014, more than \$28 million in matching Short Line Improvement Program funds have been provided toward 66 rail improvement projects.

[Read more online.](#)



Cockburn Appointed to AASHTO Council

Hanna Cockburn, director of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Division, was appointed by Secretary Trogdon to ASSHTO's Council on Active Transportation. She attended the council's recent meeting in Atlanta.



NEWS BRIEFS



The Division of Aviation is learning how to employ Lean Six Sigma training to improve its grant processes. Lean Six Sigma is a method that relies on a collaborative team effort to improve performance by systematically removing waste and reducing variation. The team celebrated earning their yellow belts during the first project.

- The Ferry Division recently received a grant through the Department of Homeland Security's FY 2018 Port Security Grant Program. The funds will be used to purchase emergency communication supplies to ensure that radios remain operable during hurricanes, storms and other events.
- Rail Division Director Jason Orthner and Rail Planning Director Neil Perry completed the rigorous North Carolina Certified Public Manager Program. Managed by the Office of State Human Resources (OSHR), the program was established in 1982 to enhance the effectiveness of public sector organizations across our state by developing the leadership capabilities of mid-level managers.
- The Public Transportation Division has launched a [lunchtime webinar series](#) to educate urban and suburban transit professionals on trends and new approaches to connecting people to their destinations. "Making Transit Count" was held in August with 106 attendees, and "SouthWest

Transit's Microtransit Service" had 68 attendees in November. [You can watch all the presentations online.](#) Upcoming webinars include:

- Creative Engagement Strategies: Mixing it up – 1/8/19
- Contracting with Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) under Federal Transportation Administration oversight rules – 3/5/19
- Building a grid system service delivery model - 5/7/19
- Transit Planning 301 – 7/9/19.

Sign up to keep receiving news!



[NC By Train](#)
[N.C. Ferry System](#)
[N.C. Division of Aviation](#)



[NC By Train](#)
[N.C. Ferry System](#)
[N.C. Division of Aviation](#)



[N.C. Division of Aviation](#)
[NCDOT](#)