



The Multimodal Message

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

Accomplishments Across the Multimodal Divisions Message from Deputy Secretary Julie White

Looking back on the past year, our multimodal divisions have made significant contributions to our state and are making investments in North Carolina's communities every day. We know that multimodal projects have the power to drive economic development, connecting our citizens to jobs, education, health care and other opportunities.

This year, we launched two new awards programs – the Mobi Awards and the Multimodal Innovation Challenge. Our divisions were instrumental in the response to Hurricane Florence, using drones to survey damage and ferries and transit operations to assist with evacuations.

The Aviation Division has been recognized nationally for its leadership on drones, hosting more than 300 people at the three-day Drone Summit. It was chosen by the Federal Aviation Administration as one of 10 participants in its Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration Pilot Program, using drones to deliver life-saving medical supplies.

The Bicycle & Pedestrian Division has made great strides in leveraging federal funding, spending all at-risk Transportation Assistance Program (TAP) dollars. The division also created a new program to sustain the activities of Safe Routes to School as federal funding ends.

The Ferry Division has multiple vessels under construction and the long-range plan under development. We have made great strides to improve our workforce recruitment and retention, including hosting our first-ever job fair, creating a robust orientation program for new hires and creating an annual supervisor training program for current supervisors.

The Public Transportation Division completed its strategic plan and launched an affordable housing task force to understand the relationship between transit and housing. The Ocracoke tram service was launched, providing new transit options on Ocracoke.

The Rail Division celebrated the opening of Raleigh Union Station and saved the CCX Intermodal facility in Edgecombe County. A third *Piedmont* round-trip between Raleigh and Charlotte was added, boosting ridership on the corridor.

Our team is proud of all we have accomplished, and we look forward to sharing more good news in the months and years to come.

Greensboro Introduces Fleet of Electric Buses

The Greensboro Transit Authority introduced a fleet of all-electric city buses at a ceremony in Greensboro last month. Governor Roy Cooper, Board of Transportation Chairman Mike Fox and Interim Director of Public Transportation Hanna Cockburn attended the event.



The first in the state, environmentally friendly buses are powered by batteries that can power buses up to 200 miles before needing to be recharged. The use of electric motors eliminate fuel costs and protects air quality, while providing passengers a quieter ride. It's estimated that this switch will save the city \$30,000 per bus every year over a traditional diesel bus. Once all 16 buses are delivered later this year, it will be the largest electric bus fleet in the Southeast.



Testifying on the Hill

NCDOT Rail Division Director Jason Orthner was invited to testify before a Congressional committee by North Carolina Congressman David Price. He discussed North Carolina's efforts to improve safety and mobility of rail service while spurring economic development. Watch Orthner's

remarks at

<https://youtu.be/PbrWFYOcqH8>

Ferry Division Hosts Career Fair

Hundreds of people from eastern North Carolina attended the N.C. Ferry Division's first career fair at the Hatteras Village Civic Center.

Attendees were able to learn about several possible career paths in the Ferry Division, from traffic attendants and crew members to marine welders and captains. Many of the attendees filled out applications for future employment.



[Read more online.](#)



Deputy Secretary for Multimodal Transportation Julie White attended an informal community day on Feb. 9 to celebrate the new 2.8-mile-long bridge to replace the 55-year-old Bonner Bridge. She also rode the Hatteras to Ocracoke ferry and the Ocracoke to Cedar Island ferry and visited with Cherry Branch ferry employees before returning home.

Safe Routes to School Funding Continues

North Carolina students will continue learning about how to safely walk and bicycle to school through NCDOT's [Safe Routes to School Program](#). The department has set aside \$1.5 million of Transportation Alternative Program funds for Safe Routes to School programming.

Communities can use the funds to develop creative programs that work to reduce the number of bicycle and pedestrian injuries and fatalities, with a focus

on elementary and middle schools students and their families. A key component of this will be encouraging student safety through educational programming, encouragement and enforcement. [Applications are being accepted through March 29.](#)

[Read more online.](#)

New Terminal Opens in Elizabethtown

Supported by funding from the Division of Aviation, Curtis L. Brown Airport in Elizabethtown opened the doors to a new, state-of-the-art terminal building that will help attract future economic growth to the region.



“This airport is truly one of our greatest assets because it opens the world to us,” said Elizabethtown Mayor Sylvia Campbell in her remarks at the ribbon-cutting.

Curtis L. Brown Airport contributes \$13.6 million dollars to our state’s economy every year and supports 40 local jobs, according to the [2019 State of Aviation](#) report.

The Division of Aviation has contributed \$688,500 towards the site preparation and construction of the terminal, in addition to \$613,782 in federal funds for construction and \$35,000 from the Division of Highways for parking lot paving.



The Multimodal Innovation Challenge, an employee-led initiative to improve operations in the Aviation, Bicycle and Pedestrian, Ferry, Public Transportation and Rail divisions, recently gave employees the opportunity to provide their ideas for making our agency better. The Innovation Committee received 58 great ideas! Stay tuned for information on winners and how these ideas will be put to work.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Grants Announced

In February, the Board of Transportation awarded bicycle and pedestrian planning grants to local government partners. Since the inception of the planning grant program, the division has supported the creation of bicycle and pedestrian plans for communities in 84 counties across the state. The division is focused on reaching communities with these planning efforts in all 100 counties by 2020.

Congratulations to:

- Boiling Spring Lakes
- Dallas
- Elizabeth City
- Enfield
- Fletcher
- Gibsonville
- Huntersville
- Kinston
- Lillington
- Mount Pleasant
- Davie County
- Jackson County



New Ferry Uniforms Unveiled

The Ferry Division recently unveiled new uniforms for its ferry crew members. Employee teams contributed to the selections, and the new uniforms reflect the professionalism of all team members. In addition, the uniforms have UV protection to keep crew members protected from the sun.

Did you know?



77%

of goods (over 429 million tons) were carried across North Carolina's **roads and highways** by truck in 2015.

70%

of the state's population is within a 30-mile radius of a **passenger rail station**.

94%

of North Carolina's residents live within a 30-minute drive of an **airport**.

6.3%

of households in North Carolina do not have **access to a vehicle**.

98

public transportation systems provided **78 million passenger trips** in 2017.

21

ferries on **7 regular routes** provide service to North Carolina residents and visitors.

NC Moves 2050 Update

NCDOT recently completed the first phase to develop a long-range transportation plan called [NC Moves 2050](#), and phase two will be launching soon.

During the first phase of the plan's development, NCDOT released an online survey seeking feedback from North Carolina residents and stakeholders about their transportation needs and expectations for the future. The feedback is being used to develop the plan. The first phase of the plan, which is called the State of the System, will provide information about transportation's role in the economy and its contribution to the quality of life in North Carolina.

After completing the first step of the plan, NCDOT organizers posted fact sheets about the State of the System [online](#).

A key part of phase 2 will be a survey to gather input on future trends impacting transportation.

Art Contest Winners Announced

Winners of the North Carolina Aviation Art Contest have been announced.

The contest calls on elementary, middle and high school students to create original artwork inspired by the theme "My Dream to Fly." All the entries were hand-made two-dimensional media.

This year, the contest drew a record number of entries. More than 2,700 entries were submitted. That's more than twice the 1,200 entries submitted in 2018.

Two students from North Carolina have advanced to the International Aviation Art Contest.

[Read more online.](#)



Train Hosts Recognized



Deputy Secretary for Multi-Modal Transportation Julie White and Rail Division Director Jason Orthner spoke to the members of the Train Host Association recently and thanked them for their service to the citizens of North Carolina and to NC By Train.

In 2018, the hosts volunteered more than 12,000 hours on trains traveling between Charlotte and Rocky Mount and greeting passengers in stations or at events to educate the public about North Carolina train service.



Speaking in Schools

Ferry Division Deputy Director Jed Dixon spoke to the students from the Mattamuskeet High School welding program on Feb. 15 about the division's Career Fair and internship program.

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](#)