



The Multimodal Message

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

Driving Through Innovation's Challenges Message from Deputy Secretary Julie White

At the 2020 N.C. Transportation Summit, we helped introduce North Carolina's first autonomous, electric shuttle. The Connected Autonomous Shuttle Supporting Innovation, or CASSI, will allow North Carolina communities to experience autonomous shuttles for the first time and consider them as a future public transit option.



CASSI will help the N.C. Department of Transportation test this technology and learn more about how it can be safely and effectively used in the future. NCDOT will test the "connected technology" at traffic signals and other infrastructure to learn about infrastructure improvements that would be necessary for autonomous driving.

Deploying CASSI was no easy feat. The technology has quickly outpaced our regulations, laws and policies. Our team has worked through several challenges and researched the project by talking to other states, countries and companies that have deployed autonomous vehicles.

CASSI is an example of the commitment and creativity necessary for our state to be a leader in technology solutions. On Feb. 7, CASSI deployed at [N.C. State University](#), where it will run on a fixed route on Centennial Campus for six months.

After that, we will accept applications to find the next deployment communities. Stay tuned for more on what we learn from CASSI and how we can use it to help more communities.

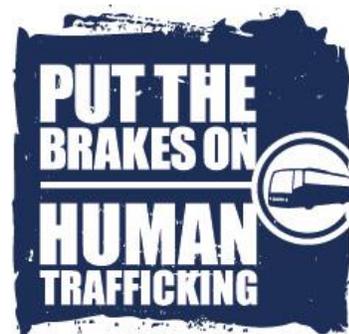
Celebrating New Jobs at Global TransPark



NCDOT Secretary Jim Trogdon, Chief Deputy Secretary David Howard, Deputy Secretary for Multimodal Transportation Julie White, Aviation Division Director Bobby Walston, North Carolina Global TransPark Executive Director John Rouse and other NCDOT staff welcomed Aircraft Solutions to the Global TransPark in Kinston on Dec. 19. The company, which recycles aircraft parts and materials, will create 475 jobs and invest nearly \$100 million.

NCDOT Receives Grant to Combat Human Trafficking

The N.C. Department of Transportation has been awarded a \$120,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation to develop and deliver training on human trafficking for public transit providers statewide. The grant also will be used to pay for human trafficking education materials that can be posted in bus stations and other public transportation facilities, as well as on public transit vehicles.



NCDOT is one of 24 organizations nationwide selected to receive grants for a federal human trafficking and public safety initiative. Human trafficking refers to modern-day slavery and affects millions of people worldwide. It is often under-reported because trafficking can be difficult to recognize and victims are afraid to come forward.

[Read more.](#)

All Modes Staff Meeting



NCDOT's multimodal division directors brought together their teams on Jan. 30 to celebrate the accomplishments of 2019 and embrace the challenges of 2020. NCDOT Secretary Jim Trogon and Chief Deputy Secretary David Howard also spoke to the group.

Vote for the 2020 NCDOT Mobi Awards

Applications are in for the 2020 NCDOT Mobi Awards, and 69 projects have been nominated!

The Mobi Awards celebrate the role that investments in multimodal transportation – such as bicycle, pedestrian, rail, transit, ferry and aviation projects - play in creating vibrant communities in all parts of North Carolina.



Top multimodal projects will be selected in six categories – Urban, Suburban, Rural, Tourism, Innovation and MVP (Most Voted Project) – and honored at an awards luncheon on April 1, 2020 hosted by NCDOT and co-hosted by [NC Go!](#), the [North Carolina Triangle Chapter of Women's Transportation Seminar](#) and the [N.C. State University Institute for Transportation Research and Education](#). [Luncheon tickets and sponsorships are available online now.](#)

Voting for the new MVP category is now open! [Check out the online gallery](#) of multimodal project entries and vote for your favorite projects until Feb. 21.

2019: A Year of Success for the Rail Division



2019 was another banner year for the Rail Division's efforts to provide safer and increased accessibility for freight movement, improve rail infrastructure and offer high-quality service to travelers.

Some notable achievements include breaking ground on a new intermodal facility in Rocky Mount and the Rail Division receiving nearly \$122 million in grant funding for safety, freight connectivity and passenger fleet improvements.

NCDOT Hosts First Autonomous Air Taxi in North America

In January, more than 100 spectators, including Governor Roy Cooper and NCDOT Secretary Jim Trogdon, witnessed North America's first demonstration of an autonomous air taxi.



The EH 216, an autonomous aerial vehicle manufactured by EHang, flew in front of a crowd gathered at the State Highway Patrol Facility/Aviation Hangar in Raleigh. Due to Federal Aviation Administration guidelines, the demonstration flight was unmanned, but the EH 216 can carry two adults.

The autonomous aerial vehicle is designed to function as a taxi service delivering people on pre-programmed routes. The aircraft has been flown in other parts of the world, but it has never been demonstrated for the public in North America.

[Read more.](#)

A Year of Opportunities & Challenges for the Ferry Division



2019 was a year of both challenges and opportunities for the North Carolina Ferry Division. The division launched new passenger ferry service between Hatteras and Ocracoke and then responded to the devastation caused by Hurricane Dorian. See a recap of the Division's 2019 accomplishments with this Year in Review Video.



Deal Advances Southeast Rail Corridor

North Carolina has received good transportation news, as an important agreement will advance plans to improve the Southeast's freight and passenger rail network.

In December, the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation announced a major deal with CSX that includes building a new rail bridge over the Potomac River to boost passenger rail capacity, adding new rail track in the Washington-to-Richmond corridor and buying hundreds of miles of passenger right of way from CSX. Part of the deal will enable the N.C. Department of Transportation to acquire a 10-mile portion of an inactive freight line in North Carolina so the line can be converted for use on the Southeast Rail Corridor.

The Southeast Rail Corridor is a network of passenger and freight rail from Washington D.C. to Jacksonville, Fla. The rail runs through North Carolina

roughly parallel to Interstate 85 and U.S. 1. The 10-mile section to be acquired runs from Ridgeway in Warren County to the North Carolina-Virginia border.

The deal comes as officials with North Carolina and Virginia work together on a strategy to acquire both in-service and out-of-service rail lines for enhanced freight and passenger services.

[Read more.](#)

Integrated Mobility Division Plans for Future in 2019



In 2019, the Integrated Mobility Division was formed by merging the Bicycle & Pedestrian and Public Transportation divisions. The new division is focused on improving safety and mobility and linking people to opportunities.

Aviation Division Focused on Goals in 2019



In 2019, the Aviation Division made significant progress towards its strategic goals: to lead in innovation, connect with stakeholders, advance North

Carolina's aviation infrastructure, grow the state's economy and create a highly effective division.

Multimodal News

- [High speed Rail from Raleigh to Richmond just got a little closer to reality](#) (News & Observer)
- [There's no driver inside the newest shuttle coming to NC State — and that's OK](#) (News & Observer)
- ['Carload Connection Campus' coming into shape along Gastonia railway](#) (Gaston Gazette)
- [Photos from the opening of the Wilmington Multimodal Transportation Center](#) (Wilmington Star-News)
- [First in flight again: Pilotless air taxi makes public demonstration flight in Raleigh](#) (News & Observer)
- [Cooper witnesses first air taxi demonstration in North America](#) (WRAL)

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