

**ACEC / NCDOT JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE
CONSTRUCTION & MATERIALS**

Raleigh, North Carolina (M&T Conference Room / Virtual)

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held on July 15, 2026, at 1:00 PM; In attendance were:

Name	Company	Email
Troy Brooks	NCDOT - Chief's Office	tbrooks2@ncdot.gov
Shane Hayes	MBP	shayes@mbpce.com
Nick Winters	NCDOT-CCU	nswinters@ncdot.gov
Casey Bowman	NCDOT-CCU	ccbowman@ncdot.gov
Reuben Chandler	SAM	Reuben.chandler@sam.biz
Todd Whittington	NCDOT-M&T	twhittington@ncdot.gov
Brian Hunter	NCDOT-M&T	bjhunter@ncdot.gov
Jim Sawyer	NCDOT-M&T	jcsawyer@ncdot.gov
Ted Adams	RK&K	tbadams@rkk.com
Scott Capps	Summit	scott.capps@summitde.com
Lee Puckett	STV	lee.puckett@stvinc.com
Michelle Gaddy	NCDOT-CCU	mhgaddy@ncdot.gov
Liam Shannon	NCDOT-CCU	lwshannon@ncdot.gov
Brian Skeens	NCDOT-CCU	bcskeens@ncdot.gov
Jeremy Guy	NCDOT Div 9	jmguy@ncdot.gov
Dale Swicegood	KCA	dswicegood@kcaeng.com

Meeting Introduction

- Previous meeting minutes were accepted.
- Troy Brooks led today's meeting. Troy has recently been promoted to Director of Field Support in the Chief Engineers' Office.
- New committee members were recognized, including Scott Capps with Summit Design and Engineering and Lee Puckett with STV.
- New Chair (Shane Hayes) and Vice Chair (Dale Swicegood) were recognized.
- NCDOT Staff Updates: Currently working to fill State Construction Engineer; Mark Craig promoted to Division 5 Deputy Division Engineer; Chad Hinnant promoted to Division 5 DCE; Stanley Harrell promoted to Division 2 Assistant DCE; Ben Hughes promoted to Division 3 Assistant DCE; COO Position eliminated with the retirement of Chris Peoples; Mary Cole Pike is new Chief of Staff; (Patrick Norman) Chief Engineer position elevated to Deputy Secretary role; Senior Deputy Chief Boyd Tharrington received new responsibilities including the Highway Divisions, Operations, Maintenance, Preconstruction, and Field Support; Todd Whittington advised that he plans to retire 10-1-26.

Budget/Financial Updates

- State budget is now approved. There were some minor adjustments to funding, but no major changes to budgetary authority and allocations.
- Legislature approved a 3% salary increase for all state employees this year. This is not retroactive to 2025. State employees also received a one-time bonus of \$1,000 or \$1,750 based on whether their salary is above or below \$65,000.
- NCDOT is still in good shape with cash on hand. Amount has slightly increased.
- As Helene Recovery continues, we are getting a better picture of the costs. We expect minimal impact to the Highway Trust Fund. FHWA and FEMA reimbursements are coming in but are lagging expenditures. So far approximately \$1.7 billion has been spent, with \$5.8 billion still forecasted to be spent. Federal reimbursement to date is \$797 million (FHWA \$449 million and FEMA \$348 million).

Training Updates

- A summary of training activity for 2026 was provided (see attachment).
- A total of 102 training classes were conducted during the reporting period.
- Approximately 2,426 individuals enrolled, with 2,089 attendees.
- Attrition was attributed to typical no-shows and scheduling conflicts.
- Training classes are going to be evaluated to identify needed improvements and modifications.
- Roadway Training class is being planned for late fall/early winter, with the focus being on Asphalt Paving.
- Structure Training is still in development, with more information to come this fall.
- Work Zone Inspection Certification is now live and available for registration, although most classes in 2026 are already filled. Initial classes are focused in the areas with the heaviest workload. CEI firms are responsible for signing up their technicians, but their NCDOT supervisor should be kept informed. This new certification will be required by all technicians, with a goal of having everyone certified by the end of 2027. New technicians are expected to become certified within 1 year. There are currently only 3 instructors, but there are more classes to come. 2027 classes should be released in October. Certifications will be shown on the Work Zone site.
<https://connect.ncdot.gov/projects/WZTC/Pages/personnel.aspx>
- RE Training Workshop being planned with a goal of late February 2027. Plan to hold one seminar in a central location for all Divisions to attend together. Looking at locations in the Greensboro or Charlotte/Concord area. More information to come.

NCDOT Discussion Items

- **2026 Statewide CEI on-Call:** Advertisement closed July 14th. Selection Committee has been chosen and will be evaluating proposals over the next few weeks. They plan to meet in early August to make selections. Committee consists of 4 DCE's and 3 CCU Staff. Expect to release results around late August.

- **Semi Annual Mileage Rate Review Memo:** Recently released with fuel adjustments. CCU is working to get all affected forms updated.
- **Transportation Technician Trainee Submittals:** Firms need to submit requests to place technicians on the program at the beginning of their training to earn qualifying time for the program steps. Several requests for promotions within the program have been made at the one-year point without the technician ever being approved for the program.

Industry Discussion Items

- **Rate Increase for CEI hourly technicians:** Memo coming soon approving a 2% salary increase for all hourly technicians. Planned to make effective 7-1-26.
- **CEI Guidelines Update:** Close to having a final document to share. CCU will be releasing a summary of the major changes along with the new guidelines soon.
- **Update on M&T Nuclear Gauge Plan:** Currently working on the manual for ABC Testing using E-Gauges. Plan to purchase 85 new E-Gauges to replace current nuclear gauges. Implementation will occur in batches starting in Division 12, 13, and 14. E-Gauges are still nuclear gauges but utilize a much smaller radioactive source due to the detector technology. They are license exempt and can be utilized by both NCDOT and CEI personnel. Technicians only need to have Radiation Safety Training and stay updated on USDOT requirements. Current nuclear gauges can continue to be used, but this will give everyone another option. More information to come in the near future.

Upcoming Potential Project Specific Advertisements

- Project Advertising website is up to date.
<https://connect.ncdot.gov/letting/ProfessionalServices/Pages/anticipatedadverts.aspx>

Next Meeting Date

- Next Meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2026, at 1:00 pm.

2026 M&T Class Summary						
Certification Class	Number of Classes	Attended	Did not Attend	Enrolled	Capacity	Remaining Classes
Aggregate Sampling (Roadway)	16	258	38	296	640	5
Borrow Pit Sampling	16	247	39	286	640	5
Conventional Density	16	291	44	335	640	5
Chemical Stabilization (QA Field)	2	12	2	14	80	0
Nuclear Density Testing - Base, Select, FDR	9	169	15	184	360	4
QMS Density Gauge	9	159	17	176	360	4
Concrete Field Technician	19	606	136	742	760	14
Volumetric Concrete Batch	1	13	0	13	40	1
QMS Roadway	14	334	46	380	560	8
Totals	102	2089	337	2426	4080	46