

Meeting Summary

Subject: ACEC/NC - NCDOT Multimodal Subcommittee Meeting

Date: Tuesday, July 29, 2025

Location: NCDOT Highway Building Rail Conference Room # 509 / Microsoft Teams Virtual

Attendees	Julie White	Christine Goins	
	Brennon Fuqua	Allison Anolik	
	Greg Keel	Betty White*	
	Jason Orthner	Emily Poole	
	Jed Dixon*	Robert Kirk	
	Cat Peele*	Steve Karnis	
	Nick Short*	Suzanne Young*	
	Marta Matthews*	Bob Deaton	*indicates virtual attendance

Discussion Topics:

- Steve Karnis provided a recap of April 22 subcommittee meeting
 - CLT Tax referendum is moving forward
 - Leslie Johnson will be new NCDOT contact for subcommittee meeting coordination purposes
 - Greg Keel provided example program management scope to Marta Matthews
- Division Updates
 - Rail
 - Corridor ID Step 2 procurements has been pushed out to a later date yet to be determined at this time (previously they had announced the procurement would be this fall).
 - Making progress with FRA for the two large grants (CRISI and FSP 23/24), FRA lawyers have expanded what they are asking for with pre-grant awards
 - NCDOT is interested in whether ACEC/NC is advocating for streamlining process with limited federal workforce but expanded requests
 - Christine Goins stated she will coordinate with Iona
 - Backlog of reevaluations is clearing, USDOT likely to start issuing NOFOs that were on hold.

- Ferry
 - The coastal, marine & facilities LSCs will be opened back up later this fall. Ferry division is getting a lot of expansion money from the state budget passed this year, and they need to add more firms for capacity.
 - Christine Goins helping Ferry Division explore the CMGC model with shipyards for the procurement of a replacement for The Silverlake ferry vessel. 3 firms working on a concept level design. As one is selected, it will be important for that team to be paired with a firm familiar with NCDOT practices.
 - Jed will be presenting on the South Dock study at the next NCDOT Board Meeting – Multimodal Committee, the project will require permitting and community engagement.
 - The 9 Foot Shoal dredging study is underway for a new channel into Ocracoke.
 - RFP will be issued to LSC holders for the Terminal Groin project soon.
- Aviation
 - Innovation LSC is currently out through August 12th - scope will include technical UAS support, electrical engineering, visualization, grant writing, etc. (note, Tammy Bromley with ACEC sent email blast for this advertisement).
 - NCDOT discussed AAM (Autonomous Aerial Mobility), believes it is the future of transit and could replace micromobility, ferries, etc., sees a role for NCDOT in subsidizing service, just like other transit. Encourages firms to explore pairing national expertise with local NCDOT knowledge. In the future, will need firms to do planning for locations for landing sites, park-n-rides, etc. These are essentially mobility-hubs. Will need connections to transit, bike/ped, etc.
- IMD
 - New LSC is in place, selected 25 firms, just finishing up kickoff meetings with firms.
 - SPSF LSC selection is this week. Awards will be announced end of August.
 - 15 multimodal plan projects will be advertised to LSC firms.
 - The Bike/Walk NC plan update will be advertised this year.
 - AECOM is helping IMD evaluate how to best use consultants (like Rail Division) vs what work needs to stay with NCDOT internally
 - At the upcoming Transportation Summit, there will be a vendor meet and greet for DBE/SPSF firms. Firms present were asked to participate if possible.
 - Consulting invoice processing time has improved since the subcommittee first raised it as an issue (from 60-90+ days outstanding down to 10-30).
 - BRT projects ramping up across the state
 - Raleigh is under contract
 - Chapel Hill is shortly behind Raleigh
 - Chapel Hill recently asked NCDOT to manage their BRT corridor for them - NCDOT declined to take it on completely, but agreed to help. Firms facing projects like these need to take ownership of the design to ensure NCDOT standards are being followed.

- Durham recently announced feasibility study
- Greensboro – NCDOT funded feasibility study
- BRT updates at October BOT multimodal meeting
- NCDOT is looking for well rounded firms/teams (not just transit planners)
 - IMD is working on a whitepaper to remind communities that there is a statute already on the books that authorizes counties to raise a ¼ cent sales tax for transit. They won't be advocating for policy - but are interested to see if communities might use this tax authority to raise funds for micromobility or to use as local match for STIP or Federal grant projects.
 - Bike/ped SPOT projects to go through Express Design process, to provide better schedules/estimates
- LAP Discussion
 - Van Argabright embedded with IMD to help with prioritization and feasibility of bike/ped projects. Hoping to improve the applications they are receiving, which will eliminate some of the problems they've been having in the LAP program. Brennan gave the example of several LAP projects still around from P3.0 that had bad scopes, costs swelled, and locals don't have the match to move forward with the project.
 - Feasibility Studies Unit is pushing express-design work, IMD met with M. Quesenberry and possibility of including bike/ped projects in express designs moving forward.
 - Contingency needs to be higher on projects before applying for prioritization. A recent project had no feasibility study, but 40% contingency, and that still wasn't sufficient to cover the project. Most common areas they see cost overruns recently are in construction cost, not R/W or utilities.
 - NCDOT asked if the subcommittee could look at what other southeastern states are doing LAP well? Are there any best practices? Interested in whether any southeastern states have state allocated funds to help with matches when locals can't absorb cost increases. Do they have Programmatic management (as opposed to the divisions being responsible for LAP projects)?
- Multimodal subcommittee 1-year anniversary check in
 - Feedback from NCDOT
 - Appreciate the ability to have open discussion, brainstorming is helpful
 - Communication/partnership with industry is key to successful projects
 - Greg stated to reach out to him with any contract related issues
- Misc.
 - New subcommittee chair – Steve Karnis
 - 3 new subcommittee members
 - Katharine Mather
 - Bob Deaton
 - Erin Musiol

- Upcoming Transportation Committee meetings:
 - August 26, 2025 – Raleigh, NC
 - November 18, 2025 – Charlotte, NC
 - February 17, 2026 – Raleigh, NC
 - May 19, 2026 – Charlotte, NC

Action Items/Next Steps:

- Christine Goins will coordinate with Iona related to the streamlining process with limited federal workforce but expanded requests
- ACEC look at what other southeastern states are doing LAP well