

Albemarle Rural Planning Organization Future Transportation Infrastructure on the Outer Banks

Presented by Ethan Sommers, Albemarle RPO Transportation Planner; Kris Noble, Hyde County
Manager; Mary Ellon Balance, Dare County Commissioner; and Robert Outten, Dare County Manager



Albemarle Rural Planning Organization

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Chartered on
11/28/2001



LPA: Albemarle
Commission



10 Counties,
15 Municipalities



174,219
Residents



5,599
Sq. Miles



2,942
Centerline miles



5 Ferry
Lines



9 General
Aviation airports



State Transportation Improvement Program on OBX

Safety

Mobility

Resiliency

Economic Development

Prioritization 8.0 On OBX

4

5 road projects

- 4 resubmittals from Prioritization 5.0 or before

9 bike/ped
projects

- 7 resubmittals from Prioritization 7.0
- 3 resubmittals from Prioritization 5.0 or before

36 ferry projects

- 17 resubmittals from Prioritization 7.0
- 2 resubmittals from Prioritization 5.0 or before

1 aviation project

- 1 Resubmittal from Prioritization 5.0 or before

Prioritization 8.0 Road Projects

- US-158 Access Management Projects
 - Resubmitted the Prioritization 7.0 project
 - Split the submittal from Prioritization 7.0 into two new submittals
 - This was to lower the cost of the projects to be more competitive
- US-158 and NC-12 Southern Shores intersection improvement
 - Has been submitted since Prioritization 1.0



Prioritization 8.0 Road Projects

- Pea Island Road Relocation
 - New project submittal in prioritization



March 5, 2026

Prioritization 8.0 Bike/Ped Projects

7

- 8 Bike/ Ped projects are in Dare County
 - Majority of these submittals are to fill gaps in existing infrastructure
- 1 Bike/ Ped Project is in Currituck County
 - This project is to connect the neighborhoods along NC-12 with a multi-use path



Prioritization 8.0 Ferry Projects

8

19 Projects are for
the Hatteras to
Ocracoke Route

5 Projects are for
the Cedar Island
to Ocracoke
Route

9 Manns Harbor
Shipyard
Improvements/
Support vessels

2 for the Swan
Quarter to
Ocracoke Route

1 for the Currituck
to Knotts Island
Route

Dare County Regional Airport (MQI)

9

- Prioritization 8.0 submittal for the construction of a 3-unit box hangar
- Began pre-bid to construct 4 new hangars
- 2027-2028 runway resurface and reinforcement for larger planes
- Upcoming priority is to add 300ft of overrun to runway 5



Future Projects

10



Safety and
Access



Safety and
Mobility

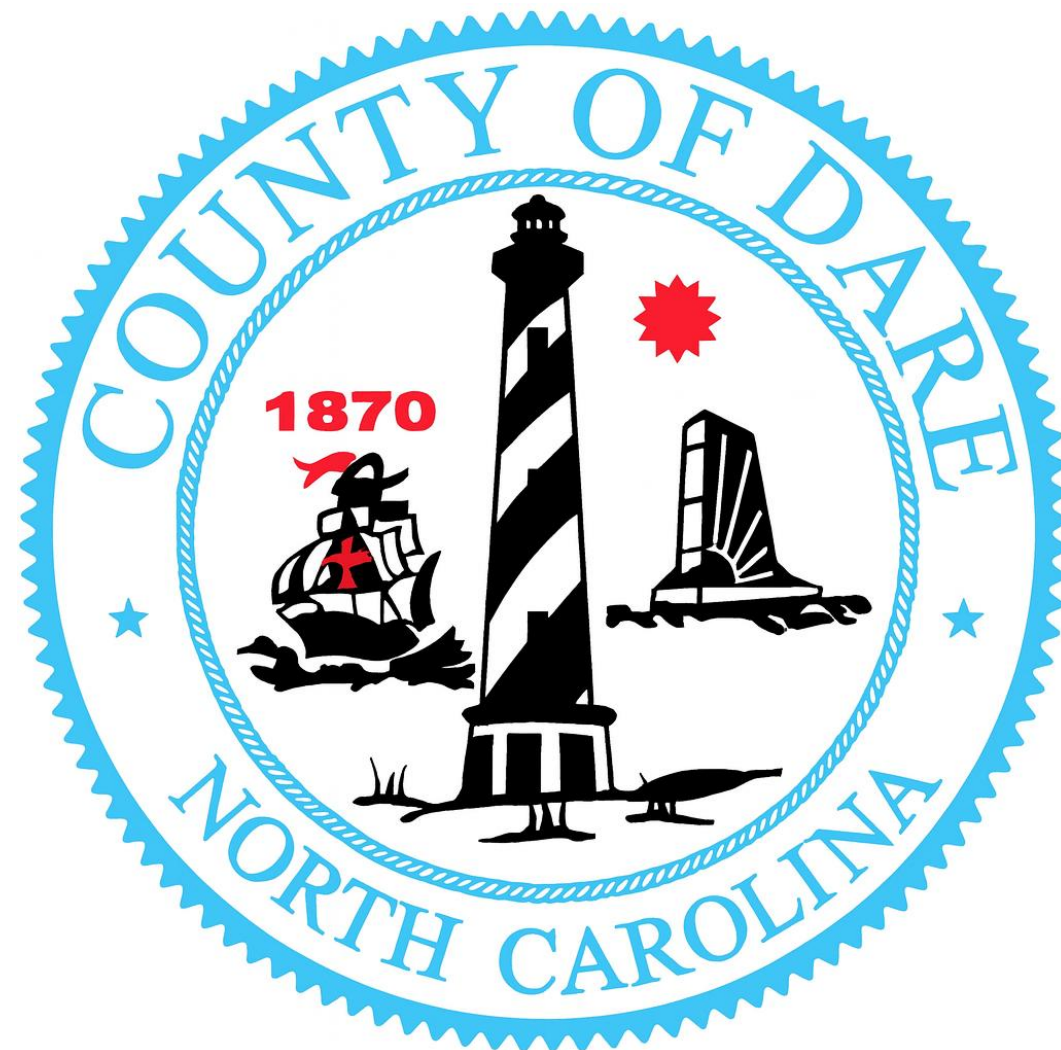


Mobility and
Resiliency

Dare County

Presented by:
Commissioner Mary
Ellon Balance

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Protecting N.C. Highway 12

Over the years, N.C. Highway 12 (N.C. 12) in Dare and Hyde counties has been closed at various times due to ocean overwash of water and sand, beach erosion, and flooding from precipitation and soundside inundation. The vulnerable nature of N.C. 12 and frequent closures have resulted in disruptions to the lives of residents and visitors to Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands; negative impacts to the Cape Hatteras National Seashore and the Pea Island Wildlife Refuge; large costs to maintain the roadway; and negative impacts to the Dare and Hyde County economies.



NC 12 Hot Spots



Hyde County

Presented by: Kris
Noble County Manager

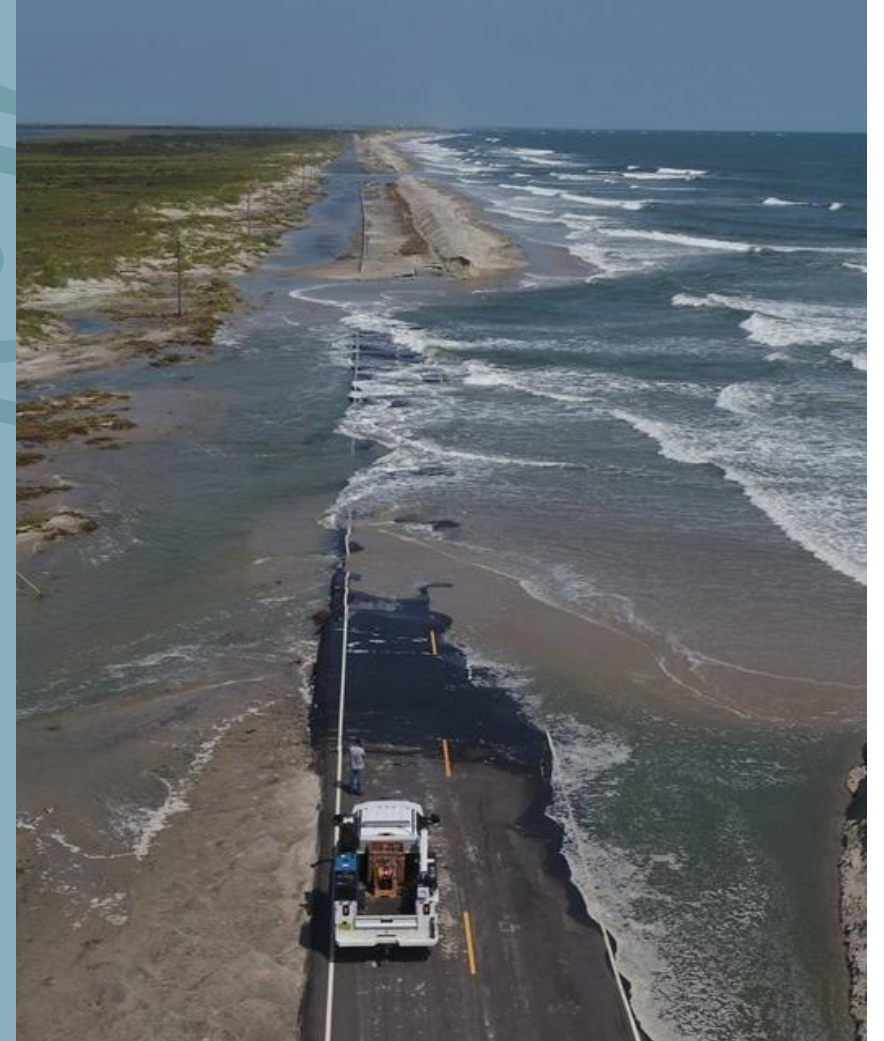


THE OCRACOKE HOTSPOT

OCEAN OVERWASH OF NC-12 ON OCRACOKE ISLAND

Kris Cahoon Noble, Hyde County

Albemarle Rural
Planning Organization



March 5, 2026

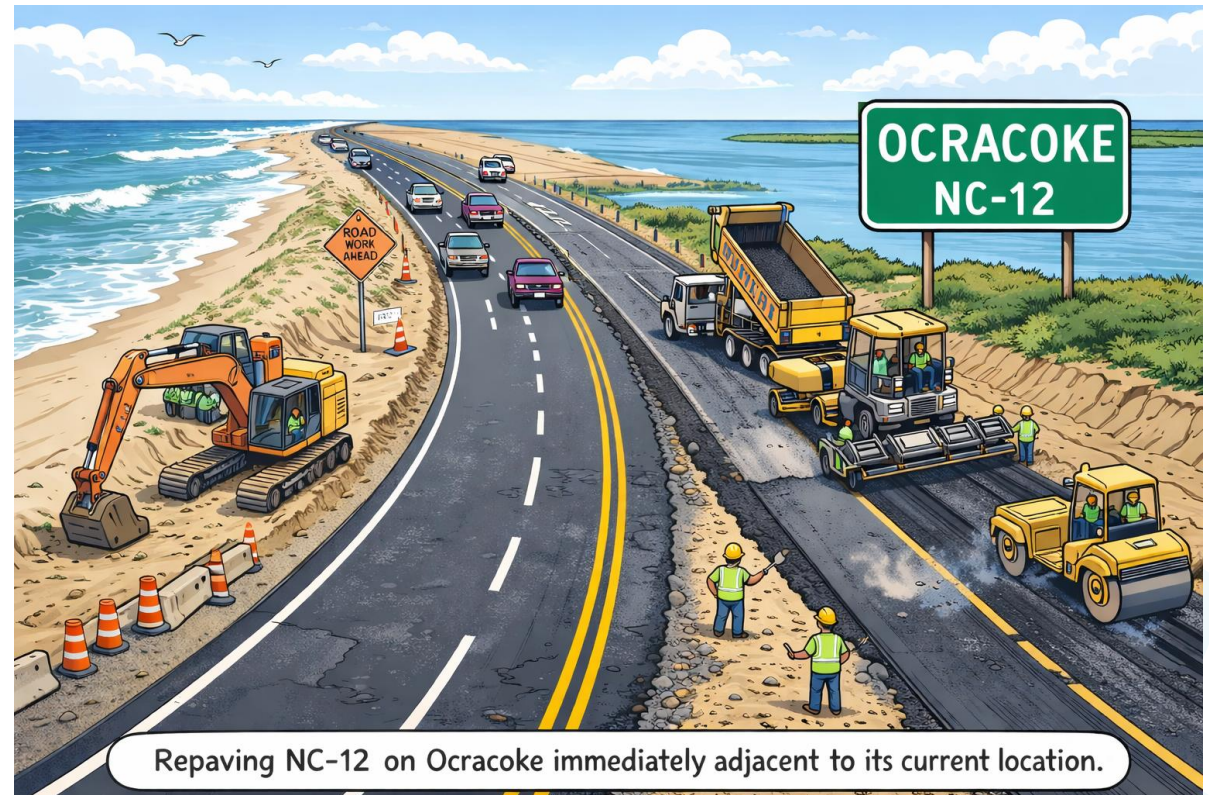
Immediate Need: Sand Bagging



- Sand bagging over the past several years has maintained the road, albeit intermittently. Thank you NCDOT
- From 2019-2025, NCDOR spent \$18M maintaining just the Ocracoke Hotspot
- We need to install the larger sand bags approved by CRC to ensure better protection

Short Term Need: Road Shift

- Shifting the road 30 feet towards the sound will:
 - Reduce ocean overwash
 - Reduce intermittent closures
 - Provide room for larger sandbags
 - Should be construed maintenance not new construction (within ROW)
 - No need to be included in STIP



Mid-Term Solution: Beach Nourishment

- Beach Nourishment needed (300K)
- \$25M – could last up to 15 years
- Creates habitat and National Park Service beach
- Would require ongoing maintenance using dredge materials from channel maintenance



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Long-Term Solution: Other Roadway Alternatives

- Begin Studying possible options for long term solutions
 - Harden Structures
 - Innovative solutions
 - Looking to other islands for examples





**OCRACOKE
ACCESS
ALLIANCE**

**THANK
YOU**

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THANK YOU

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