

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY



JOINT LEGISLATIVE TRANSPORTATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

DRAFT
**REPORT TO THE
2018 SESSION
of the
2017 GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF NORTH CAROLINA**

APRIL 5, 2018

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TRANSMITTAL LETTER

April 5, 2018

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TO THE MEMBERS OF THE 2018 REGULAR SESSION
OF THE 2017 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The **JOINT LEGISLATIVE TRANSPORTATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**,
respectfully submits the following report to the 2018 Regular Session of the 2017
General Assembly.

Sen. Jim Davis (Co-Chair)

Rep. Kelly E. Hastings (Co-Chair)

Rep. Frank Iler (Co-Chair)

Rep. John A. Torbett (Co-Chair)

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COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

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The Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee met five times after the 2017 Regular Session. The following is a brief summary of the Committee's proceedings. Detailed minutes and information from each Committee meeting are available in the Legislative Library and at the Committee's website.

November 9, 2017

The first meeting of the Committee following the 2017 regular session of the General Assembly was held November 9, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 643 of the Legislative Office Building. Senator Jim Davis presided. The Committee heard the following presentations: (1) Welcome and New NCDOT Staff Introductions, Jim Trogdon, PE, Secretary, North Carolina Department of Transportation; (2) DMV Reform Efforts, Torre Jessup, Commissioner, North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles; (3) Highway Division 9 Assessment, Pat Ivey, Division Engineer, Highway Division 9, North Carolina Department of Transportation; (4) Overview of Changes to the NCDOT Financial Audit, Beth Wood, State Auditor, North Carolina Office of the State Auditor; (5) Updates on Cash Management and Project Delivery, Bobby Lewis, Chief Operating Officer, North Carolina Department of Transportation.

December 7, 2017

The second meeting of the Committee following the 2017 regular session of the General Assembly was held December 7, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 643 of the Legislative Office Building. Representative Kelly Hastings presided. The Committee heard the following presentations: (1) 2018-2027 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), Van Argabright, Manager, STIP, Feasibility Studies, and Strategic Prioritization, North Carolina Department of Transportation; (2) Ferry Life-Cycle Plan for Terminal Structure Repairs and Replacements, Sterling Baker, Director of Facilities Management & Multimodal Special Projects, Engineer, North Carolina Department of Transportation; (3) Division 12 Assessment, Mark Stafford, PE, Division Engineer, Highway Division 12, North Carolina Department of Transportation; (4) Bridges: Long-Term Funding Needs, Federal Funding, and Bundling Contracts, Greg Perfetti, PE, Director of Field Support, Division of Highways, North Carolina Department of Transportation; (5) NCDOT Tolling Policy, Mark Boggs, PE, Atkins; (6) Powell Bill Study, Majed Al-Ghandour, Ph.D., PE, Manager of Project Management, North Carolina Department of Transportation.

January 11, 2018

The third meeting of the Committee following the 2017 regular session of the General Assembly was held January 11, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 643 of the Legislative Office Building. Senator Jim Davis presided. The Committee heard the following presentations:

(1) DMV Study on Elimination of Nurses in Medical Review Program, Torre Jessup, Commissioner, North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles; (2) Division 5 Assessment, Joey Hopkins, PE, Division Engineer, Highway Division 5, North Carolina Department of Transportation; (3) Streamlining Pre-construction Activities, Chris Werner, Administrator of Technical Services, North Carolina Department of Transportation; (4) Public Transportation Regional Consolidation and Coordination Grants, Debra Collins, Director, Public Transportation Division, North Carolina Department of Transportation; (5) FRRCSI Five-Year Spending Plan, Sandra Stepney, Planning and Development Branch Manager, North Carolina Department of Transportation; (6) DOT Appraisal Process, Jim McGowan, State Appraiser, Right of Way Unit, North Carolina Department of Transportation.

March 8, 2018

The fourth meeting of the Committee following the 2017 regular session of the General Assembly was held March 8, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 643 of the Legislative Office Building. Representative Frank Iler presided. The Committee heard the following presentations: (1) Road Improvements Adjacent to Schools, Kevin Lacy, PE, State Traffic Engineer, Transportation Mobility and Safety Unit, North Carolina Department of Transportation; (2) Community College presentations – Betsy Bailey, NC Government Relations Building Division Director, Carolinas AGC; John Rouse, PE, Eastern Deputy Chief Engineer, North Carolina Department of Transportation; Lisa Chapman, Ph.D., Senior Vice President/Chief Academic Officer, North Carolina Community College System; (3) Highway Division 4 Assessment, Ronnie Keeter, PE, Division Engineer, Highway Division 4, North Carolina Department of Transportation; (4) Shortline Railroad Funding Sources and Needs, Todd Burchette, President, Railway Association of North Carolina, President, Gulf and Ohio Railways; (5) Passenger Ferry and Ocracoke Tram Update, Jed Dixon, Ferry Division Deputy Director, North Carolina Department of Transportation; Sterling Baker, Facilities Management Division Director and Multimodal Special Projects Engineer, North Carolina Department of Transportation; (6) NCDOT Legislative Agenda, Joy Hicks, Government Affairs and Legislative Director, North Carolina Department of Transportation.

April 5, 2018

The fifth meeting of the Committee following the 2017 regular session of the General Assembly was held April 5, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 643 of the Legislative Office Building. Senator Jim Davis presided. The Committee heard the following presentations: (1) Dredging Studies – Dredging Services Cost-Benefit Analysis, Sterling Baker, Facilities Management Division Director and Multimodal Projects Engineer, North Carolina Department of Transportation; Use of Dredge Manteo, Sterling Baker, Facilities Management Division Director and Multimodal Projects Engineer, North Carolina Department of Transportation; Acquisition of Dedicated Dredging Capacity, Linda Culpepper, Deputy Director, Division of Water Resources, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality; (2) Review and Approval of DOT Legislative Proposals, Committee Staff; (3) NC DMV Study Streamlining International Fuel Tax Agreement & International Registration Plan, Hope Mozingo, Deputy Commissioner, North Carolina

Division of Motor Vehicles; John Panza, Director, Excise Tax Division, North Carolina Department of Revenue; (4) DOR Customer Service Update, John Panza, Director, Excise Tax Division, North Carolina Department of Revenue; (5) Division 14 Highway Overview, Brian Burch, Division Engineer, North Carolina Department of Transportation; (6) Global TransPark Strategic Plan and Marketing Contract Report, Thomas Allen, Executive Director, Global TransPark; (6) Review and Approval of Committee Report, Committee Staff. Following these presentations, the Committee voted to approve this report, and adjourned, with plans to reconvene after the 2018 session of the General Assembly.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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The Committee recommends the attached draft legislation, Draft 2017-MWz-17, for consideration in the 2018 session of the General Assembly.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

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2017-2018

President Pro Tempore of the Senate
Appointments:

Sen. Jim Davis (Co-Chair)

Sen. Warren Daniel
Sen. Cathy Dunn
Sen. Joel D. M. Ford
Sen. Rick Gunn
Sen. Kathy Harrington
Sen. Tom McInnis
Sen. Wesley Meredith
Sen. Bill Rabon
Sen. Erica Smith
Sen. Terry Van Duyn

Speaker of the House of Representatives
Appointments:

Rep. Kelly E. Hastings (Co-Chair),
Rep. Frank Iler (Co-Chair),
Rep. John A. Torbett (Co-Chair)

Rep. Michele D. Presnell (Vice-Chair)

Rep. William Brawley
Rep. Dana Bumgardner
Rep. Becky Carney
Rep. Charles Graham
Rep. Grier Martin
Rep. Phil Shepard
Rep. Scott Stone
Rep. Rodney W. Moore (Advisory Member)
Rep. Bob Muller (Advisory Member)

Staff:

Amna Cameron
Joshua Freeman
Luke Gillenwater
Amanda Hayden
Howard Marsilio
Wendy Graf Ray

COMMITTEE CHARGE/STATUTORY AUTHORITY

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§ 120-70.51. Purpose and powers of Committee.

- (a) The Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee may:
- (1) Review reports prepared by the Department of Transportation or any other agency of State government related, in any manner, to transportation, when those reports are required by any law.
 - (2) Monitor the funds deposited in and expenditures from the North Carolina Highway Trust Fund, the Highway Fund, the General Fund, or any other fund when those expenditures are related, in any manner, to transportation.
 - (3) Determine whether funds related, in any manner, to transportation are being spent in accordance with law.
 - (4) Determine whether any revisions are needed in the funding for a program for which funds in the Trust Fund, the Highway Fund, the General Fund, or any other fund when those expenditures are related, in any manner, to transportation may be used, including revisions needed to meet any statutory timetable or program.
 - (4a) Examine the importance of railroads and railroad infrastructure improvements to economic development in North Carolina, including improvements to short-line railroads.
 - (4b) Study issues important to the future of passenger and freight rail service in North Carolina.
 - (4c) Determine methods to expedite property disputes between railroads and private landowners.
 - (4d) Study all aspects of the operation, structure, management, and long-range plans of the North Carolina Railroad.
 - (5) Report to the General Assembly at the beginning of each regular session concerning its determinations of needed changes in the funding or operation of programs related, in any manner, to transportation.

(b) The Committee may make interim reports to the General Assembly on matters for which it may report to a regular session of the General Assembly. A report to the General Assembly may contain any legislation needed to implement a recommendation of the Committee.

Additional responsibility of Committee:

Pursuant to G.S. 143B-350(n), the Committee has the opportunity to review proposed appointments to the Board of Transportation for 30 days prior to the appointments becoming effective.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

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