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DERPO May 2021 Newsletter

From the East Coast Greenway Alliance: NC ECG Modifications

Hello again North Carolina East Coast Greenway Partners,

The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is out early, and the program has been rebranded again. TIGER, which turned into BUILD, is now RAISE (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity). \$1B in funding is available.

<https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants>

RAISE applications are due July 12, 2021.

NOFO: <https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/2021-04/FY%202021%20RAISE%20grants%20NOFO%20%28Final%29.pdf>

Again, if anyone is planning on applying or reapplying for a RAISE grant along any section of the ECG in North Carolina, please let me know. Thank you to those who have already been in touch! See my original email for information on the resources the East Coast Greenway Alliance can provide.

From NCDOT: Applications Open for Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grants

RALEIGH – The N.C. Department of Transportation is accepting applications from communities for the 2021 Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant Initiative. The program provides funding for municipalities across the state to develop comprehensive bicycle or pedestrian plans.

All North Carolina municipalities are eligible to apply for a standard bike or pedestrian plan. Additionally, the following options are available:

- Counties with populations of less than 50,000 may apply for a bicycle or pedestrian plan.
- Smaller municipalities with populations of less than 10,000 can also apply to develop combined bicycle and pedestrian plans.
- Municipalities with a population of less than 5,000 may apply for a Project Acceleration Plan – an abbreviated plan primarily focusing on priority project identification and implementation.

- Municipalities (and counties with populations of less than 50,000) with a bicycle or pedestrian plan may also apply to update their plan if it is at least five years old.

The deadline for applications, to be submitted electronically, is June 30 at 5 p.m. Award recipients will be notified by September 2021.

This program is sponsored by the department's Integrated Mobility Division and the Transportation Planning Division. Since 2004, approximately \$7 million have been awarded through this program to 226 municipalities and 6 counties statewide.

Proposals are divided and judged in geographical groups to help establish equitable distribution of funding across the state. Selected awardees commonly include a diverse mix of municipalities from large cities to small towns.

Plans funded are not for one specific project but represent a comprehensive strategy for expanding bicycle and pedestrian opportunities within a given municipality. The plans may address facilities, programs, policies, and design guidelines that encourage safe walking and bicycling.

A short webinar is scheduled for May 12, 2021 to describe the grant program and respond to any questions from potential applicants.

For more information on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant Initiative, contact Bryan Lopez at 919-707-2606 or balopez@ncdot.gov.

Craven Area Rural Transit System (CARTS) Fares Temporarily Suspended

The Craven County Board of Commissioners approved a temporary suspension of Craven Area Rural Transit System (CARTS) fares from January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021. Fares will resume July 1, 2021. CARTS is the public transit system covering the rural counties of Craven, Jones, and Pamlico as well as the New Bern urbanized area.

For more information visit the Craven County CARTS website at: <https://www.cravencountync.gov/165/Transportation-CARTS> or call (252) 636-4917.

Jacksonville Urban Area MPO (JUMPO) Expansion:

The formal boundary expansion of JUMPO to include all of Onslow County will go into effect by May 7, 2021.

This will mean about 50,000 residents of rural Onslow County living in towns such as Swansboro, Richlands, Holly Ridge, and North Topsail Beach will no longer be a part of the Down East RPO.

The exit of Onslow County from DERPO will require updates to key DERPO documents (Memorandum of Understanding, TCC and TAC By-Laws, etc.), on which we are currently working on draft updates. More details will be forthcoming.

Tentative TCC Schedule for Remainder of 2021:

To be held @ 10:00 AM online via Zoom for now; in-person meetings will eventually be held ECC 3rd Floor Conference Room, New Bern:

Tuesday, May 18th, 2021 (may be postponed until June)

Tuesday, July 20th, 2021

Tuesday, September 21st, 2021

Tuesday, November 23rd, 2021

Tentative TAC Schedule for Remainder of 2021:

To be held @ 10:00 AM at the ECC 3rd Floor Conference Room, New Bern:

Tuesday, May 25th, 2021 (may be postponed until June)

Tuesday, July 27th, 2021

Tuesday, September 28th, 2021

Tuesday, November 30th, 2021

Comprehensive Transportation Plan Updates:

Carteret County CTP: DERPO is working with Carteret County and NCDOT Transportation Planning Division to verify data for a Traffic Demand Model (TDM) for Carteret County. The TDM will play a key role in identifying the county's long-term transportation needs. TPD expects to complete the TDM by Fall 2021. Afterwards, work will begin on the CTP proper.

Craven County CTP: The document and maps for the Craven County CTP are complete and were first presented to the public in Havelock before the beginning of the COVID-19 quarantine, but further public meetings have been postponed until conditions allow for public meetings. The CTP will be presented to the Craven County Board of Commissioners on May 17, 2021.

SPOT 6.0 Update:

The SPOT Office is currently scoring all projects; the scores should be released at the end of July. The August meeting of the SPOT Workgroup will determine the SPOT schedule beyond August 2021. Regional and Division projects will require the addition of local input points (LIPs), and our methodology to determine LIPs will also be due at the end of July. A SPOT Subcommittee has been set up to determine what would be the best methodology to use for LIPs and will subsequently propose which projects will receive points. The subcommittee will first meet on May 10, 2021 at the ECC Offices to discuss methodology.

STIP Project Updates:

All Central Let STIP projects (DDRL, Raleigh Let, DB) through FY'25 (June 30, 2025) are approved to move forward with PE. In addition, Division Let STIP projects through FY'23 (June 30, 2023) are approved to move forward.

B-5938/B-5939 (Upgrades to Atlantic Beach and Emerald Isle Bridges): Work currently at 91.59% complete.

R-1015 (US 70 Havelock Bypass): Construction progress at 26.15% currently. Completion is tentatively scheduled for May 2024.

R-5777A/R-5777B/U-5713 (US 70 James City Improvements to east of Thurman Rd.): Construction progress at 16.62% currently. Completion tentatively scheduled for December 2023.

B-4863 (Harkers Island Bridge Replacement): The project proposes to replace Bridges No. 73 and 96 in Carteret County. Let date in FY 2022.

U-3431 (Miller Blvd. Widening in Havelock): Project development is no longer on hold. Right of Way (ROW) Date in February 2027; let date in September 2028.

R-5777C (US 70 Improvements from east of Thurman Rd. to Havelock Bypass): Currently in development. Let date scheduled for Winter 2022; completion of project in FY 2025.

U-5876 (Widening of US 70 between 4th St. in Morehead City and Radio Island; replacement of Newport River Bridge): Currently in development; project no longer on hold. Let date delayed to FY 2027.

R-3403B/R-2513A (Widening of US 17 from SR 1433 (Antioch Rd.) in Bridgeton to SR 1438 (Spruill Town Rd.) in Vanceboro): Let date of FY 2028.

Highway Safety Improvement Program:

Improved pavement markings will be installed along US 70 between Havelock and Morehead City, and NC 55 between Bridgetown and Bayboro.

Two pedestrian crossings along NC 58 in Atlantic Beach (at E. Bogue Sound Dr. and Brooks St.) will receive Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs).

In Beaufort, the existing traffic signal at SR 1493 (Live Oak Street) at Campen Rd. will be improved by installing a pedestrian crossing with signal heads and a short section of sidewalk on each side of SR 1493 to tie into existing sidewalk on the west side and to tie into the Town of Beaufort sidewalk project on the east side.

In Morehead City, the signals at US 70 (Arendell St.) and Hestron Dr./Crystal Coast Plaza, and Arendell St. and SR 1237 (Harris Rd.)/Shopping Center will be improved with metal poles, mast arms, and dual red indication on Arendell St.

Along NC 24, new pavement markings and rumble strips will be installed between Taylor Notion Rd. in Cape Carteret and US 70 in Morehead City.

A roundabout will be created at the intersection of SR 1400 (River Rd.) and SR 1450 (Nelson Rd.) in Craven County.

NCDOT TPD NEWS



NCDOT TPD Down East RPO & New Bern Area MPO Newsletter

May 2021

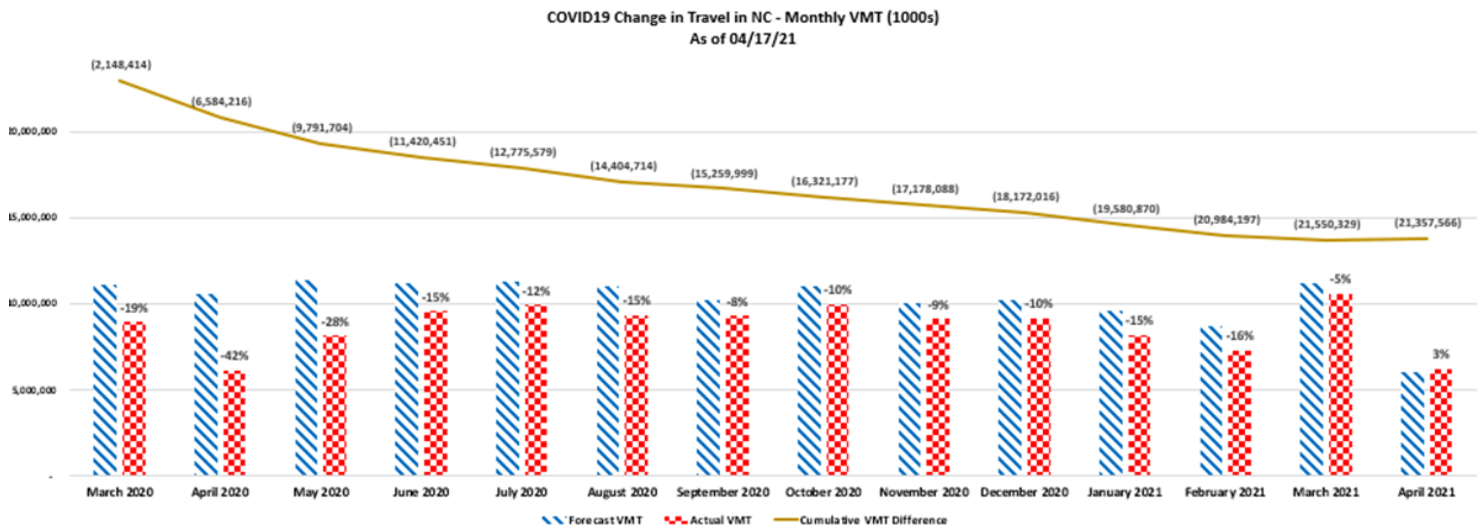
Drone Bridge Inspection:

NCDOT has another new tool to help make our roadways safer – drones. Recently, the Marc Basnight Bridge over Oregon Inlet became the first bridge in the state where a drone was used as part of the structure's biennial inspection. Using drones to help conduct bridge inspections means they can be completed faster than a traditional visual inspection, saving money, and reduce the need for lane closures. While drones will not replace a traditional visual inspection in most instances, they will be used to supplement traditional inspections and add great benefit by being able to inspect areas of the bridge that are difficult to reach during a traditional inspection.

"Connecting people, products and places safely and efficiently with customer focus, accountability and environmental sensitivity to enhance the economy and vitality of North Carolina...."

- NCDOT Mission Statement

Travel Trends in NC During Covid-19



Craven County CTP:

Craven County CTP will be presented to Craven County Board of Commissioners at the May 17th. The second public involvement session will be held at a future date.

Carteret County Model:

The Base Year Model calibration was completed in March. Down East RPO is currently working on future population and employment growth projections in the county. Once that has been finalized, Future Year model validation can begin.

Contact Us

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Visit us on the web
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State Giving Children in Need Record Number of Lifesaving Bike Helmets:

A record number of children, 11,850 total, across NC will be receiving lifesaving bicycle helmets through the NCDOT Bicycle Helmet Initiative. NCDOT uses funds from the sale of “Share the Road” specialty license plates to pay for bike helmets that are distributed at bicycle safety events for underprivileged children by government and non-government agencies. A record 163 organizations applied to participate in the program this year. Helmets will be delivered by April 30. Helmets can reduce the risk of severe brain injuries by nearly 90 percent.

FHWA Releases Resources to Support Bikeway Selection :

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) released two resources about bikeway selection. “Traffic Analysis and Intersection Considerations to Inform Bikeway Selection” examines bikeway selection trade-offs as they relate to intersections, including spatial needs, safety, equity, and traffic operations. “On-Street Motor Vehicle Parking and Bikeway Selection Process” discusses on-street parking considerations around bikeways, including strategies for various curb use and parking considerations. Both reports supplement the FHWA “Bikeway Selection Guide.” https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/ped_bike/tools_solve/

Upcoming	Date
3rd Quarter invoice and work summary	May 10, 2021
TPD approves FY 22 UPWP and Indirect Cost Allocation Plan	June 29, 2021