

Railroads

- North Carolina has more than 3,300 miles of tracks; more than 400 miles are state owned.
- There are more than 4,350 at-grade crossings on public streets and highways throughout the state. Fifty-two percent have signal warning devices (gates and/or flashing lights).
- Twenty-four private railroad companies operate in North Carolina, transporting more than 135 million tons of freight each year.
- Station renovations are underway or completed at 12 stations and new stations are being built in Kannapolis and Charlotte.

Intercity Passenger Rail

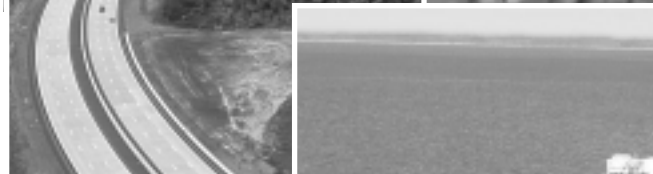
- Twelve daily Amtrak trains serve 16 North Carolina cities on six routes including the north and southbound *Carolinian*, *Piedmont*, *Crescent*, *Silver Star*, *Silver Meteor* and *Palmetto*.
- The *Carolinian* and *Piedmont* are operated jointly by NCDOT and Amtrak to provide daily, round-trip passenger rail service between Charlotte and Raleigh. *Carolinian* service continues to the northeast.
- Each year, nearly 450,000 rail passengers begin or end their trips at one of North Carolina's 16 Amtrak stations.



NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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Key Dates

In North Carolina Transportation History

- 1715** Colonial Assembly enacts legislation directing local courts to provide for the operation of ferries and the construction and upkeep of roads.
- 1848** General Assembly passes the Ashe Bill creating the state-financed N.C. Railroad, which was completed and opened for service in 1856.
- 1903** The Wright brothers achieve the first powered flight at Kitty Hawk in Dare County.
- 1909** N.C. begins issuing licenses for motor vehicles.
- 1915** General Assembly creates the State Highway Commission to oversee road construction and maintenance throughout the state.
- 1916** The *Federal Highway Act* initiates financial assistance to states for road construction. First transportation map is published.
- 1921** Under Gov. Cameron Morrison, the General Assembly passes the *Highway Act of 1921* calling for the construction and maintenance of a 5,500-mile state road system.
- 1931** The State Highway Commission begins maintaining county roads statewide. As a result, North Carolina's state road system grows to include more than 45,000 miles.
- 1946** N.C. gains approval for its portion of the Interstate Highway System, a network of transcontinental freeways.
- 1947** The State Highway Commission purchases the ferry operations of T.A. Baum, who operated a ferry across Croatan Sound between Manns Harbor and Roanoke Island. This became the first route of the N.C. Ferry System.
- 1949** Under Gov. Kerr Scott, the General Assembly passes the \$200 million *Secondary Roads Act*, an effort to "get the farmers out of the mud."
- 1965** A \$300 million bond issue is approved under Gov. Dan K. Moore to help construct and maintain a safe, modern state road system.
- 1973** General Assembly creates the Department of Transportation by combining the State Highway Commission, the Department of Motor Vehicles and other state agencies.

A Message from the Secretary



Transportation is fundamental to North Carolina's prosperity and high quality of life. Without a doubt, North Carolina's transportation system is one of the finest in

the country, providing its citizens with the nation's second largest state highway system and the largest ferry system on the east coast.

In the early 1900s North Carolina was named the "Good Roads" state following a bold initiative to create an efficient and interconnected roadway system. Today, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) remains committed to maintaining the "Good Roads" legacy. The passage of *North Carolina Moving Ahead!* and other programs implemented by NCDOT demonstrate this ongoing commitment. The department is equally committed to improving and promoting alternative modes of travel such as public transportation, rail, aviation, ferry, bicycle and pedestrian. NCDOT also oversees the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV), as well as numerous beautification programs to protect and improve the state's natural resources.

NCDOT supports our thriving state by offering a full-service, multi-modal transportation network encompassing all forms of travel—land, air and sea. This brochure highlights our state's unique transportation system by providing a brief introduction to NCDOT's history and its current programs and services.

Sincerely,

Lyndo Tippett
Secretary of Transportation

1974 The NCDOT formally creates specialized internal divisions for aviation, bicycles, ferries, public transportation and rail.

The *Bicycle & Byways Act* establishes the Bicycle Program—the first of its kind in the nation.

1977 Under Gov. Jim Hunt, voters approve a \$300 million bond issue to build a highway network to more efficiently link all regions of the state.

1988 The N.C. Adopt-A-Highway Program is established to address concerns about litter along the state's highways.

1989 The Highway Trust Fund provides dedicated funds for highway construction and improvements.

1993 Gov. Jim Hunt begins the Governor's Highway Safety Program, including the "Click it or Ticket" and "Booze It and Lose It" campaigns.

1994 Gov. Hunt unveils *Transportation 2001*, a plan to speed up highway construction, complete key transportation corridors, eliminate the highway maintenance backlog and develop a master plan for public transportation.

1996 A \$950 million highway bond is approved under Gov. Hunt to accelerate construction of urban loops and intrastates and to pave secondary roads.

1997 Gov. Hunt's *Transit 2001 Commission* unveils a plan to improve public transportation statewide. Graduated Driver's Licensing goes into effect.

2002 The Virginia Dare Memorial Bridge, the state's longest bridge at 5.2 miles, opens on the Outer Banks.

The N.C. Turnpike Authority is established.

2003 Gov. Easley signs into law *North Carolina Moving Ahead!*, a \$700 million transportation initiative to address critical transportation needs—highway maintenance, modernization and public transportation.

2004 The state's first HOV lanes open along I-77 in Charlotte, improving commuting times for vehicles with two or more people.

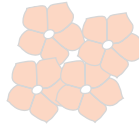
N.C. is one of the first states in the nation to implement a comprehensive statewide 511 Travel Information System, providing up-to-date information on travel conditions anywhere in the state by telephone.

Aviation



- North Carolina has 74 publicly-owned airports and more than 300 privately-owned airports, heliports and other landing areas. Nine airports have regularly scheduled airline service and two offer international service to Europe, Canada and Mexico.
- There are 7,850 registered private, corporate and government aircraft based in the state which are flown by 14,611 certified pilots and instructors.
- Approximately 3.5 million passengers fly to and from North Carolina, and more than 800 million pounds of freight is exported annually.
- Commercial and general aviation account for approximately \$10.3 billion in revenue each year and are responsible for more than 200,000 jobs in North Carolina.

Beautification Programs



- More than 3,000 acres of wildflowers are maintained along North Carolina's roadsides by the N.C. Wildflower Program.
- North Carolina's Adopt-A-Highway Program is one of the largest of its kind in the nation. More than 12,000 miles of state-maintained roadsides have been adopted by 6,000 volunteer groups, saving taxpayers approximately \$4 million in annual clean-up costs.
- Forty eight designated scenic byways throughout the state cover more than 1,700 miles. These routes give motorists an opportunity to experience the state's rich history, culture and scenery.
- There are two functional covered bridges in North Carolina – Bunker Hill Covered Bridge spanning Lyle's Creek in Catawba County and Pisgah Covered Bridge spanning the Little River in Randolph County.

Bicycle & Pedestrian



- About 4 million North Carolinians own or ride a bicycle. Many cities and towns across the state have constructed bicycle facilities, including mapped and signed bicycle routes, bike lanes, wide-paved shoulders, multi-use trails, greenways and rail trails.

- The nation's first "Bicycling Highways" system was developed in North Carolina. Today more than 3,000 miles of bicycling highways traverse the state from the mountains to the coast.
- The NCDOT has mapped and signed bike routes in 25 municipalities, counties and regions throughout the state. Another 24 mapped and signed bike routes are scheduled for development.

Ferry



- The ferry system, the second largest in the nation and the largest on the east coast, operates 24 ferries and has served the residents and visitors to North Carolina since the mid-1940s.
- Each year, the ferry system transports nearly 2.5 million passengers and 1.3 million vehicles.
- Seven routes facilitate transportation along the state's coast, linking Cherry Branch to Minnesott Beach, Currituck to Knotts Island, Aurora to Bayview, Cedar Island to Ocracoke, Ocracoke to Swan Quarter, Ocracoke to Hatteras Island and Southport to Fort Fisher.

Highways



- North Carolina has the second largest state-maintained highway system in the nation, incorporating over 78,615 miles of highways:

Primary highways: 14,705 miles

Interstate – 1,019

Interstate Business – 66

U.S. Routes – 5,534

N.C. Routes – 8,086

Secondary roads: 63,910 miles

- 310 miles of interstate highways will be added to the state's system upon completion of two new routes in North Carolina, I-73 and I-74.
- North Carolina maintains 18,540 bridges collectively spanning 376.98 miles. The longest bridge stretches 5.22 miles from Roanoke Island to Manns Harbor on U.S. 64 in Dare County. The oldest bridge still in use, built in 1891, spans the Pigeon River on Love Joy Lane near Waynesville in Haywood County.
- The state's first HOV (High Occupancy Vehicle) lanes are located in Mecklenburg County along I-77 in Charlotte.

- The state highway system includes four tunnels — three in Haywood County and one in Buncombe County.
- To date, the department has used 11.4 million recycled tires for highway construction and 52,300 tons of recycled glass beads for paint and long life pavement markings.
- Real-time travel information is available to N.C. transportation's users through the Travel Information Management System (TIMS) at ncsmartlink.org and by calling "511".

Motor Vehicles

- The Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) License & Theft Bureau is the oldest state law enforcement agency founded in 1921.
- There are approximately 7 million licensed drivers and more than 7.5 million vehicles registered in North Carolina:

Cars: 4,916,525

Trucks: 1,696,542

Buses: 8,089

Trailers: 779,458

Motorcycles: 134,096

Mobile homes: 350

Tractor/trailer trucks: 58,600

Special mobile equipment: 1,828

Wreckers: 3,137

RV's: 21,850

Other: 454



Public Transportation

- There are 19 publicly-owned, urban and small urban transit systems and two regional transit systems operating in North Carolina.
- Carpool/vanpool services are available for commuters in the Charlotte, Triad and Triangle areas and their surrounding counties.
- About 5.5 million North Carolinians have access to rural public transportation services operating in 96 counties and small towns across the state.
- All 100 North Carolina counties receive funding to serve the special transportation needs of elderly and disabled citizens.