



NC Department of Public Safety

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Roy Cooper, Governor

Eddie M. Buffaloe Jr., Secretary

William C. Ray, Director

To: Members of the Joint Legislative Emergency Management Oversight Committee and Fiscal Research Division

From: Eddie M. Buffaloe, Jr., Secretary & Homeland Security Advisor *EMB*
 William C. Ray, Director & Deputy Homeland Security Advisor *WCR*
 Division of Emergency Management

Date: June 30, 2023

Re: Annual Report on Tropical Storm Fred Private Roads and Bridges Recovery Program required pursuant to Section 5.9A.(d) of S.L. 2021-180

Pursuant to Session Law 2021-180, the Division of Emergency Management (NCEM) submits the following report on the status of disaster recovery work associated with the \$20 million¹ in funding allocated for a private roads and bridges repair and replacement program to support North Carolinians impacted by Tropical Storm Fred between August 17-19, 2021 (hereinafter the Private Road and Bridge Repair/Replacement Program). In order to execute the work quickly and expedite disaster recovery assistance, upon adoption of the 2021 State Budget, the Division of Emergency Management partnered with the Office of State Budget and Management-Disaster Recovery Office (OSBM-DR) to implement the Tropical Storm Fred residential recovery programs including the Private Road and Bridge Repair/Replacement Program.

Of the \$49 million appropriated for Tropical Storm Fred residential recovery programs, the demand to repair or replace destroyed or damaged roads and bridges has exceeded all other categories of housing recovery. These other categories include housing reconstruction, housing repairs, rental property repairs, and temporary housing. Of the \$20 million appropriated to the Private Road and Bridge Repair/Replacement Program, all funding has been expended, encumbered by construction contracts, and obligated by grant awards, and administrative costs as of June 16, 2023. Further awards or procurement has been suspended for the Private Road and Bridge Repair/Replacement Program because of the lack of available funds. As of June 8, 2023, there were 153 applicants/projects that could not proceed to grant award/procurement of construction because of the lack of available funds.

¹ See Section 5.9A.(c)(1)c of Session Law ("S.L.") 2021-180, which appropriated \$15,000,000 to be used for the repair or replacement of private roads and/or bridges damaged by Tropical Storm Fred, and Section 5.4.(a)(3)a that appropriated another \$5,000,000 for the Private Road and Bridge Repair and Replacement Program established under Section 5.9A of S.L. 2021-180.



1636 Gold Star Drive Raleigh, NC 27607 | 4236 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-4236

Phone: 919-825-2500 Fax: 919-825-2685 | www.ncdps.gov www.readync.gov

An Equal Opportunity Employer

The following report sections provide additional status updates through June 16, 2023, as required by Session Law 2021-180:

(1) The criteria used for awarding funds.

Criteria for awarding the funds tracked the criteria found in Section 5.9.A.(d) Session Law 2021-180. After consulting with engineering professionals in the North Carolina Department of Transportation, staff prioritized funding awards to:

1. Repair failed private roads or bridges that provide access to multiple residential properties.
2. Repair failed private roads or bridges that provide access to a single residential owner-occupied property.
3. Repair failed private roads or bridges that provide access to recreational or commercial facilities.

Cost sharing criteria: Some of the failed private roads and bridges are owned by neighborhood homeowner associations (HOAs) who managed access bridges that serve multiple residences. Active HOAs are nonprofit entities that have emergency capital reserves that support costs to repair common area properties that includes roads and bridges. With these cases, the team entered into cost sharing agreements with the HOAs who pay 25% of all project engineering and construction costs, and state recovery funds pay 75% of the repair costs. Additional and more detailed information about the application and eligibility process can be found at: tsfred.nc.gov.

(2) The locations of any roads or bridges replaced.

To date, applications have been received from the following 11 western counties noted in Table 1.

The most significant demand has been and remains concentrated in Haywood, Yancey, Buncombe, and McDowell Counties.

Table 1: Tropical Storm Fred: Private roads and bridges applications by county

County	Eligible Applications to Date	Percent of Total	Payment Completed	In Process
Haywood	150	25.91%	85	22
Yancey	120	20.73%	70	3
Buncombe	82	14.16%	55	7
McDowell	68	6.91%	35	3
Madison	40	6.91%	22	2
Transylvania	28	4.84%	20	0
Mitchell	3	0.52%	1	0
Henderson	3	0.52%	3	0
Watauga	3	0.52%	3	0
Avery	0	0.00%	0	0
Rutherford	0	0.00%	0	0
TOTALS	497		294	37

(3) The average grant amount disbursed.

As of June 23, 2023, the average cost per road or bridge project expended/disbursed is \$41,347.02 (total expenditure \$13,685,864.80 / 331 projects) for approved projects that are active or completed (as of June 23, 2023) awarded application.

(4) The number of projects requested, declined, and funded.

As of June 8, 2023, the number of applicants requesting assistance, declined, funded, and placed on a waitlist for assistance is as follows.

Table 2

# applications	# denied, withdrawn, duplicate ineligible applications	# applicants funded	# applicants on waitlist
579	95	331	153

(5) The identification of unmet needs remaining at the end of each fiscal year for Private Road or Bridge Repair/Replacement Program.

As stated above Table 2, there are a total of 153 applications/projects that cannot be started because all \$20 million for this program have been expended, encumbered by construction contracts, and obligated to grant awards, and administrative costs.

The remaining applications include longer or more complicated projects with increased engineering and constructions costs due to complexity (i.e. permits, no-rise flood studies) and cannot be addressed without additional funding.

We are deeply appreciative of the continued support of the jurisdictions impacted by Tropical Storm Fred and we remain committed to executing an expedited recovery program.