

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY



JOINT LEGISLATIVE TRANSPORTATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

(DRAFT)
**REPORT TO THE
2014 GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF NORTH CAROLINA**

APRIL 4, 2014

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TRANSMITTAL LETTER

April 4, 2014

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE 2014 GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

The JOINT LEGISLATIVE TRANSPORTATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE respectfully submits the following report to the 2014 General Assembly pursuant to G.S. 120-70.5.

Sen. Kathy Harrington, Co-Chair

Rep. Frank Iler, Co-Chair

Rep. John Torbett, Co-Chair

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COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

The Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee met four times from September 2014 to April 2014. 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, or at the Committee's website.

September 10, 2013

The first meeting of the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee during the 2013-14 interim was held on September 10, 2012 at 9:00 am in Room 1228 of the Legislative Building. The Committee first heard an overview of S.L. 2013-817, Strategic Transportation Investments (STI), and associated technical corrections in S.L. 2013-410 from Committee staff.

Next, the Committee heard a NC DOT STI Implementation overview. Following this overview, the Committee heard an extensive overview of the STI prioritization process variables, methodologies, and weights. The presentations covered the following areas: highways; special regional and divisional weights; aviation; bicycle and pedestrian; ferries; public transportation; and rail. The Committee continued with DOT presentations concerning STI normalization; the MPO/RPO input process; and the Division Engineer scoring process. The Committee next received work group feedback. Following this, the Committee heard a NC DOT report on the transition from prioritization to programming under STI, and the proposed DOT implementation schedule. The Committee's final presentation was from Secretary Tony Tata and NC DOT Board Chair Edward Currin, who discussed their views on the STI implementation process. The Committee discussed the various STI formula methodologies that were presented, and requested a response from DOT at its next meeting in October.

October 4, 2013

The second meeting of the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee during the 2013-14 interim was held October 4, 2013 at 3:00 pm in Room 1228 of the Legislative Building. The Committee first heard an NC DOT response to the Committee's requests on STI methodology. This presentation included discussion of the Department's review process, alternate STI prioritization processes for rail accessibility; alternate investment strategy for highway projects in Divisions 1 & 4 and Divisions 2 & 3; revisions to highways criteria for accessibility/connectivity; normalization of cross-modal criteria and programming minimums; and local input point distribution. The Committee next heard NC DOT presentations on litigation impacts on the Bonner Bridge and Monroe Bypass projects; and on standards for public-private partnership agreements.

February 7, 2014

The third meeting of the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight during the 2013-14 interim was held February 7, 2014 at 9:00 am in Room 1228 of the Legislative Building. The Committee first heard three rail related presentations from NC DOT staff: a North Carolina rail system primer; a Piedmont improvement program status update and intercity rail funding outlook; and an update on implementation of the freight rail and rail crossing safety improvement fund. The Committee also heard an NC DOT update on implementation of the Strategic Transportation Investments Act; and finally, a presentation of NC DOT's proposed legislation for the 2014 session.

April 4, 2014

The fourth meeting and final meeting of the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight during the 2013-14 interim was held April 4, 2012 at 9:00 am in Room 1228 of the Legislative Building.

(Insert summary of meeting here, after it occurs)

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

*DOT PROPOSED LEGISLATION,
WILL BE INSERTED HERE,
IF APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON APRIL 4, 2014*

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

2013-2014

President Pro Tempore of the Senate
Appointments:

Sen. Kathy Harrington (Co-Chair)
Sen. Warren Daniel
Sen. Joel D. M. Ford
Sen. Malcolm Graham
Sen. Rick Gunn
Sen. Ralph Hise
Sen. Neal Hunt
Sen. Wesley Meredith
Sen. Bill Rabon
Sen. Dan Soucek
Sen. Michael Walters

Speaker of the House of Representatives
Appointments:

Rep. Frank Iler (Co-Chair)
Rep. John Torbett (Co-Chair)
Rep. William Brawley
Rep. Rayne Brown
Rep. Becky Carney
Rep. Nelson Dollar
Rep. Charles Jeter
Rep. Chuck McGrady
Rep. Rodney W. Moore
Rep. Phil Shepard
Rep. Paul Tyne

Advisory Members

Sen. Brent Jackson
Rep. Dana Bumgardner

COMMITTEE CHARGE/STATUTORY AUTHORITY

§ 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.

These powers, which are enumerated by way of illustration, shall be liberally construed to provide for the maximum oversight by the Committee of all transportation matters in this State.

(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.

