

House Select Committee on Strategic Transportation Planning and Long Term Funding Solutions

Review of House Select Committee's Work

The House Select Committee on Strategic Transportation Planning and Long Term Funding Solutions met eight times in the last interim between December 2015 and April 2016.

Four subcommittees were appointed to focus more narrowly on specific issues. The four subcommittees and topics discussed by those subcommittees were:

Primary Roads

- Primary highway system overview
- Governor's Strategic Corridors concept
- I-95 overview
- MPO overview
- Overview of steps to complete and NC DOT highway project
- Input from construction industry, NC Association of County Commissioners, and League of Municipalities
- Modernizing DOT/innovation and revenue enhancements

Secondary Roads

- Secondary system overview
- State-maintained secondary roads overview
- Standards for roads to be added to the State system
- Deficient bridges
- Ferry system overview
- Powell Bill overview
- Bicycle pedestrian overview
- RPO overview
- Ferry Capital needs
- Input from construction industry, NC Association of County Commissioners, and League of Municipalities
- Modernizing DOT/innovation and revenue enhancements

Transit/Aviation

- Public transportation system overview

- Public Transportation Funding Study
- Aviation system overview
- Commercial and general aviation outlook
- Aviation Development Task Force recommendations
- Planning and funding processes for fixed guideway projects
- GoTriangle Corridor Plans and Project Updates
- Charlotte Area Transit System Corridor Plans and Project Updates

Ports/Rail

- NC Freight Rail System
- State funding for rail corridor development
- Economic impact of NC's supply chain
- Agricultural export trends and opportunities
- NC Railroad Company and economic development
- Shortline/Regional rail outlook
- Dredging jurisdiction and federal funding outlook
- Wilmington rail realignment proposal

The full Committee also met and focused on broader issues concerning transportation planning and funding. Topics discussed included:

- Governor's 25 Year Vision
- STI overview
- State Ports Authority overview
- Logistics – NC's transportation network
- Federal funding
- State transportation funding
- NC's changing demographics
- Tolling in other states

The Committee had two off-site meetings:

- Mattamuskeet Outpost near Swan Quarter – Committee members visited the Swan Quarter ferry terminal and the Hyde County Airport.
- North Carolina State Port in Morehead City – Committee members toured the Port and the Morehead City Train Depot.

The Committee recommended three proposed bill drafts and two additional general recommendations:

- Recommended by the Secondary Roads Subcommittee – proposed legislation to adjust the expenditure of funds allocated for paving of unpaved secondary roads.
- Recommended by the Secondary Roads Subcommittee, recommendation amended by the full Committee – proposed legislation to repeal authority to establish tolls on ferry routes, eliminate tolls on currently tolled routes, and provide funding for rehabilitation and replacement of vessels and infrastructure.
- Recommended by the full Committee – proposed legislation to repeal the cap on the amount of funds that may be expended on light rail transit projects.
- Recommended by the Secondary Roads Subcommittee – General Assembly should consider increased funding for unpaved secondary roads.
- Recommended by the Ports/Rail Subcommittee – Ports are of critical importance and need further investment and study.