

# Transit Call Recap – February 11th, 2026

## Winter Storm Response and Emergency Coordination:

Brennon Fuqua (IMD Director) discussed the recent statewide winter storms, highlighting the coordinated emergency response efforts by local transit agencies, including Onslow United Transit. Danny Ferrucci (Onslow Director) gave a summary on the importance of process improvements and communication with emergency operations centers and partner agencies.

- **Storm Impact Statistics:** Brennon shared that during the last two storms, there were 8,079 agency reports for the recent storm through the Winter Storm Reporting system, with 21 evacuation trips carrying over 350 individuals to safety and 31 trips transporting people to shelters ahead of the storm.
- **Process Improvements:** Brennon explained that the team is reviewing internal processes to improve the storm reporting survey, which is used to communicate resource needs to NCDOT and to support requests for Emergency Management funds from the FTA.
- **Onslow United Transit Preparation:** Danny Ferrucci described Onslow United Transit's proactive approach, including early identification of drivers, extending operations, and mapping client addresses with county GIS to ensure effective emergency shelter transportation and dialysis client support.
- **Fleet Adaptation and EMS Collaboration:** Danny noted the challenges with LTV vehicles in snow and ice, the move toward Ford Transit vans with potential all-wheel drive, and the collaboration with EMS to assist dialysis clients when transit vehicles were grounded.
- **Financial Updates and Claims Processing:** Beth Gay (Interim Finance Manager) provided updates on financial deadlines, claims submission requirements, and the implementation of the new IDP format, emphasizing the need for timely submissions and correct documentation, and offering support through accounting specialists.

- **Upcoming Deadlines:** Beth outlined key due dates for change requests and claims, noting that December and second quarter claims were due January 30th, and January monthly claims are due February 28th.
- **IDP Format Implementation:** Beth explained that all claims must now be submitted using the new IDP format, which streamlines the process and improves accuracy, and reminded agencies to ensure documentation matches claim dates.
- **5311 Applications Approval:** Beth reported that the 5311 admin and operating applications were approved at the February 5th board meeting, with contracts to be issued soon, and reminded that only authorized officials may sign agreements.
- **Support Resources:** Beth encouraged agencies to use the Connect NCDOT finance homepage for answers, training videos, and forms, and to reach out to accounting specialists or herself for assistance.
- **Grant Administration and UGA Application Updates:** Carolyn Freitag (Grants Administration Manager) and Casondra Hamilton (Grants Administrator) presented updates on FY27 UGA and other grant applications, the review process, upcoming board meetings, and improvements for FY28, including stakeholder feedback and training opportunities for directors.
  - **Application Review Status:** Carolyn stated that internship and apprentice applications are being presented at the March Board of Transportation meeting, while 5303 MPO group applications are under review for April approval.
  - **Board Meeting Agenda:** Carolyn highlighted that the March board meeting will include combined capital applications, intern/apprentice applications, and any outstanding 5310/5311 applications.
  - **FY28 UGA Program Improvements:** Carolyn described the comprehensive review of the UGA program for FY28, incorporating stakeholder feedback to streamline processes and improve clarity and usability.
  - **Training Opportunities:** Carolyn announced comprehensive UGA training sessions in late March, with condensed sessions for experienced directors and full sessions for new directors, including hands-on demonstrations.
- **ROAP Fund Reporting and Expenditure Updates:** Casondra provided updates on ROAP fund expenditures, reporting progress, and the importance of timely report

submissions and corrections to facilitate earlier fund distribution and grant year closeout.

- **Expenditure Status:** Casondra reported that 63% of ROAP funds had been expended, 4% transferred to match other grants, and 33% remained unexpended, with recent increases in report submissions and approvals.
  - **Reporting Deadlines:** Casondra reminded agencies that the January report is due February 27th and emphasized the need to report transfers in the month they occur and to respond to confirmation or correction requests within four days.
- **Procurement Updates and Vehicle Contracts:** Blair Chambers (Deputy Director for Compliance & Procurement) shared updates on statewide vehicle IFB processes, including contract review stages, survey results for heavy-duty bus contracts, and the release of updated procurement templates in response to federal changes, with follow-up actions discussed with David Rhew (NCPTA Executive Director).
  - **Statewide Vehicle IFB Progress:** Blair explained that the traditional vehicle contract is under review by Purchasing and Legal, with expected posting of the IFB between February 16th and 20th or the following week.
  - **Heavy Duty Bus Contract:** Blair reported that a workshop was held on January 29th, the survey closed with 15 submissions, and IFB creation is underway.
  - **Procurement Template Update:** Blair described the release of an updated agency procurement template reflecting federal changes, including increased thresholds, removal of DBE language, and updated circular references, with a six-month window for agencies to update.
  - **Association Support for Procurement:** David offered to send a letter to the legal department to expedite the procurement process, and Blair agreed to coordinate via email and clarified the review process involving NCDOA – Purchasing & Contracts.
- **Compliance Review and Damis Reporting:** Kevin Edwards (Safety, Education, and Compliance Manager) and Earle McNeill (Program Analyst) provided updates on the CY25 Compliance Review period, reporting completion statistics, and reminded agencies of the Damis reporting deadline and ongoing data collection by RLS.

- **Compliance Review Status:** Kevin reported that 38 reviews were completed, with eight closed and 30 in progress, and thanked agencies and contractors for their cooperation.
- **Damis Reporting Deadline:** Eartle reminded agencies that Damis reporting is due by February 13th, with RLS managing the data collection process.
- **Inner City Bus Program Updates:** Danielle Kittredge (Senior Statewide Planner) announced targeted outreach to transit service providers for website updates about NCDOT-supported inner city bus services and the opening of the FY27 call for applications to operate service, with details on eligibility and application deadlines.
  - **Website Outreach:** Danielle stated that Campbell or Logan will contact transit providers in NCDOT-served areas to ensure inner city bus information is available on their websites.
  - **FY27 Application Call:** Danielle announced the FY27 call for applications to operate inner city bus service, open until March 20th, and provided eligibility details and contact information for further inquiries.
- **Training Programs and Upcoming Opportunities:** Kim Angel (Training Coordinator) and Jeremy Scott (ITRE) presented updates on recent and upcoming training programs, including financial management, drug and alcohol program management, boot camp, Transit Academy, and TLDP, with registration details and scheduling information.
  - **2025 Training Statistics:** Kim reported that 41 training programs covering 22 topics were delivered in 2025, with 852 attendees, including boot camp and Transit Academy modules.
  - **Upcoming Financial Management Training:** Kim announced a financial management series focusing on best practices and ROAP fund budgeting, with registration available via the Connect NCDOT calendar.
  - **Drug and Alcohol Program Management:** Kim detailed virtual training sessions scheduled for March 3rd-5th, with a certificate awarded upon full attendance and successful completion of a quiz for reasonable suspicion determination.
  - **Boot Camp and Transit Academy:** Kim shared that Boot Camp will be held March 17th-18th at NC State University, and Transit Academy will run monthly starting in May, with location planning underway for Winston Salem.

- **TLDP Leadership Training:** Jeremy encouraged participation in the TLDP class beginning February 16th, highlighting its focus on decision-making and leadership skills for transit professionals, with two in-person seminars scheduled.