

Status Report for STIC Incentive Projects

(7/24/23)

State: (NC)

STIC Incentive Projects

Project Name	State Champion	Federal Fiscal Year	Federal Funds - Amount Allocated	Federal Funds - Amount Obligated	Federal Funds - Amount Expended
Implement Emergency Alerting Service	Dominic Ciaramitaro	2022	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0 (\$50K invoiced in June 2023)

STIC Project #1: Implement Emergency Alerting Service

Progress Report #:1

Description of Proposed Work: (Overview of Project Proposal and Anticipated Outcome)

NCDOT's Traffic Systems Operations (TSO) is using STIC incentive funds to assist implementing an emergency alerting service that will improve traveler information in North Carolina. Highway Emergency Linked Platform (HELP) Alerts provide direct, two-way communications to travelers affected by emergencies or long duration road closures via direct alerts to traveler's cell phones with no app or pre-registration required. These HELP Alerts will improve safety and customer service.

NCDOT currently uses FEMA's Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) to send short emergency messages to alert stationary motorists of trapped queues, major incidents near a large event, or areas that are unsafe for travel. We have faced several challenges with initiating WEAs including the time it takes to send out the alert, multiple approvals from North Carolina Emergency Management, and software challenges. With the addition of HELP, NCDOT could reach all travelers in an affected area more quickly and efficiently and provide two-way communication for the duration of the event.

Status:

NCDOT's use of the HELP system requires approvals from FEMA and NC Emergency Management. NCDOT has applied for these approvals and has received all but the final one. NCDOT has written a Standard Operating Procedure to govern the process. NCDOT has trained 10 NCDOT staff and 3 NCEM staff to use the HELP system. Once NCEM gives final approval NCDOT will hold a meeting with all County Emergency Management Agencies and can then begin to use the system.

The entire \$50,00 will be spent on the first invoice for the software and will be paid very soon.