

North Carolina Interagency Leadership Team

Mission Statement:

Develop and implement an interagency leadership plan for North Carolina to balance successfully mobility, natural and cultural resource protection, community values, and economic vitality at the confluence of our missions.

Goals:

Through a series of work sessions, the North Carolina Interagency Leadership Team has identified the top concerns and issues facing transportation, the environment and the economy in North Carolina. Those discussions helped form the mission and the team goals.

Goal 1: Develop a comprehensive shared GIS database.

Goal 2: Partner with local governments and other stakeholders to integrate local use and long-range transportation planning as well as applicable environmental & economic planning initiatives to meet mobility, economic and environmental goals.

Goal 3: Improve the Merger 01 Process.

Background:

The quality of life for the citizens of North Carolina, both urban and rural, is heavily dependent on transportation. Highways provide the overwhelming proportion of that transportation. Our transportation system also provides our country with an advantage in the world marketplace, as the transportation cost in the United States, compared to the gross domestic product, is lower than most countries. Again, highways move the major share of commodities within this country. There is consensus among the Interagency Leadership Team that the transportation system should be planned hand-in-hand with economic development and the protection and enhancement of the state's cultural and natural resources. These resources are also extremely important to the quality of life in North Carolina.

Various stakeholders at the national and state level are concerned with highway project development issues and timing. The public process that this country enjoys often leads to issues that can become polarized and lead to indecision or lengthy studies in the project delivery process. Our state is growing in population, jobs, leisure activities, and travel demand. To meet this growing demand on the state's transportation system, we must increase capacity through expanded transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, better operations of the current highway system, and expansion of highways. Mobility, however, must be accomplished in a manner which is compatible with and enhances the natural and human environment.

The leaders in the following group represent agencies that are integrally involved in the planning, development and implementation of North Carolina's transportation system.

- North Carolina Department of Transportation
- North Carolina Department of the Environment and Natural Resources
- North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- North Carolina Department of Commerce
- North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
- North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
- United States Army Corps of Engineers
- Federal Highway Administration
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- Environmental Protection Agency
- National Marine Fisheries Service

The North Carolina Interagency Leadership Team group came together in 2004. The team believes that it is essential, and possible, to develop future transportation projects in a collaborative, interdisciplinary approach that involves all stakeholders and preserves the scenic, historic, natural environment and community values setting while efficiently meeting the mobility, economic and safety needs of citizens.

Benefits:

The North Carolina Interagency Leadership Team meetings provide a forum for representatives to explain to each other individual agency missions and how each prioritizes activities.

The North Carolina Interagency Leadership Team provides an opportunity for us to review the team's mission in light of the individual agency's missions and activities. We can find areas of confluence and look for opportunities to share activities, enhance collaboration and create mutual benefits.

The North Carolina Interagency Leadership Team provides an opportunity for each agency to develop personal relationships with members of other agencies. It paves the way for improved communication and continued cooperation between agencies.

The North Carolina Interagency Leadership Team provides an organized platform for sharing the information necessary to move forward productively toward achieving the goals of each agency's respective mission.

Role of the Team:

The North Carolina Interagency Leadership Team meets to ensure that the strategies agreed upon are being implemented by the different work groups and that the strategies are generating the desired goals.

- The team addresses new areas for improvement and avenues to discuss policies, regulations and laws that affect the agencies.
- The team provides an outlet for the representatives to discuss how the new measures are working after implementation and it provides a forum for the different agencies to bring forth areas of concern.
- The team also keeps track of new initiatives started at the different agencies that may impact the other members or duplicate efforts already underway at the statewide level.