



NORTH CAROLINA
Department of Transportation

NCDOT Aviation

N.C. Airports Association Regional Winter Meeting – Region 1

Nick Short, P.E., Interim Director, NCDOT Aviation

Rachel Bingham, P.E., Deputy Director of Development

January 24, 2025

Connecting people, products and places safely and efficiently with customer focus, accountability and environmental sensitivity to enhance the economy and vitality of North Carolina



TOPICS FOR TODAY

- Staffing Updates
- Hurricane Helene Impacts & Relief
- Division & Funding Updates
- Staying Connected
- Q&A

Staffing Update

Introducing Nick Short, P.E., PLS

Interim Director, NCDOT Aviation



- More than a decade of experience with NCDOT
 - Led efforts to acquire 1.6 million acres of imagery in response to Hurricane Helene.
 - Spearheaded the integration of crewed aircraft sensors and uncrewed autonomous systems (UAS) for DOT applications
 - Helped develop the Sanford UAS Test Site
- B.S. Civil Engineering, UNC Charlotte
- Third generation aviation professional (father was a pilot, grandfather a naval aviator)

New Staff



Haven Bailey

Contractor/Workforce Programs

- ACE Academy Grant Program
- N.C. Aviation Art Contest
- HBCU Aviation Fellows
 - STEM events
- Aviation Intern/TEA programs



Dr. Shannan George

Training and Events Specialist

**N.C. State University Institute for
Transportation Research and Education**

Succeeds Eugene Murray for NC AirTAP Programs

- Airport Leadership and Management Program
 - Airport Board Member Training
 - Safety Workshops

REMINDER

Staffing reorganization under way to manage future of air transportation needs and technology integration

Airport Development
Rachel Bingham, Deputy Director

Airport Project Management

Airport Funding Programming

Programs & Planning
Jason Schronce, Deputy Director

Innovation & Emerging Technologies

Statewide Programs

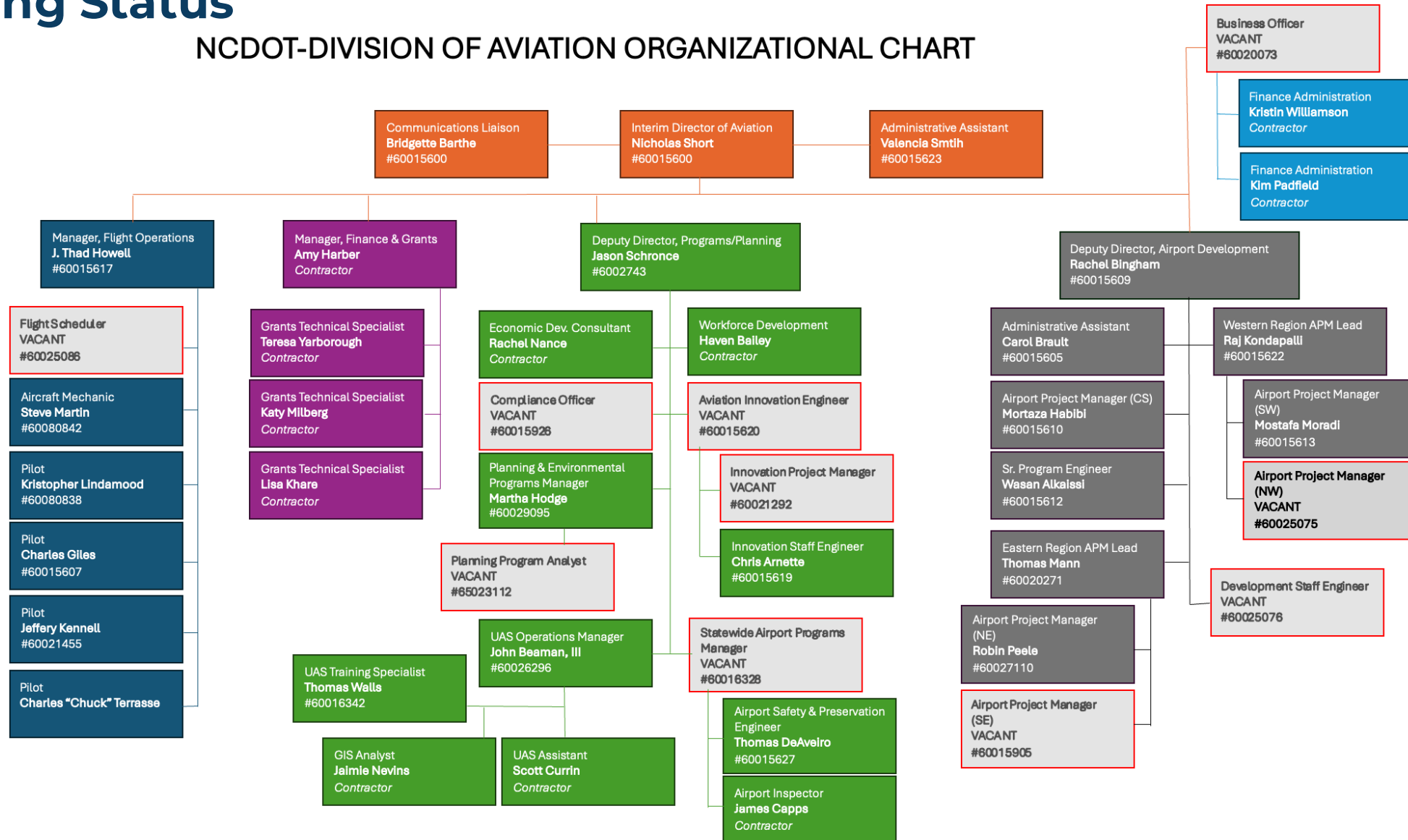
Environmental & Compliance

Business & Workforce Development

- **Airport Development** manages:
 - Federal and state funds programming
 - Airport project management, oversight and technical assistance
- **Programs & Planning** manages:
 - AAM and new technology integration
 - Expanded roles for Statewide Programs, environmental and compliance to accommodate both airport development and AAM/UAS integration
 - Business and workforce development

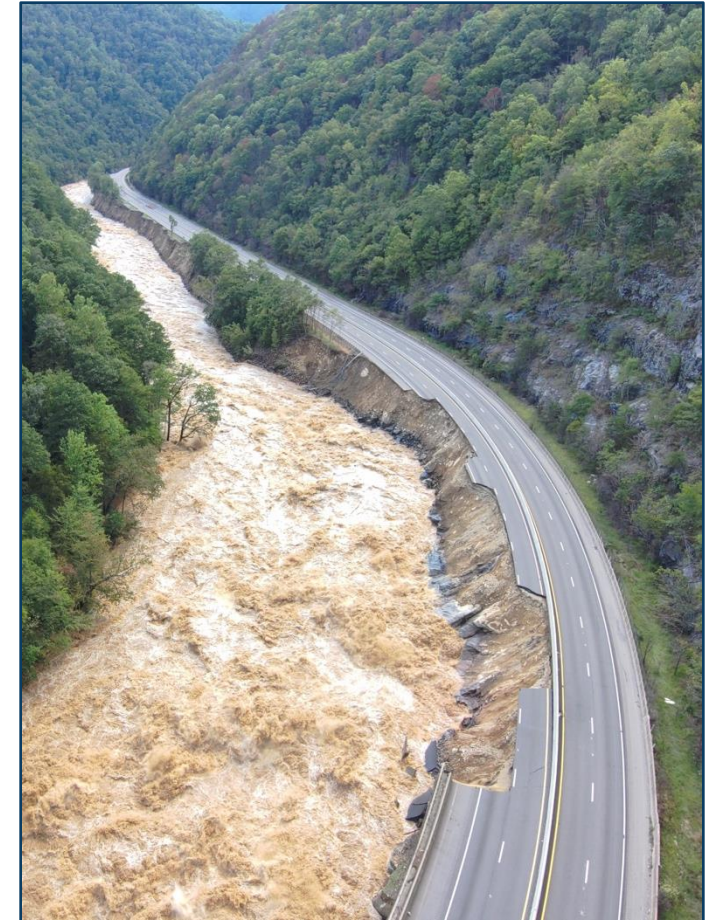
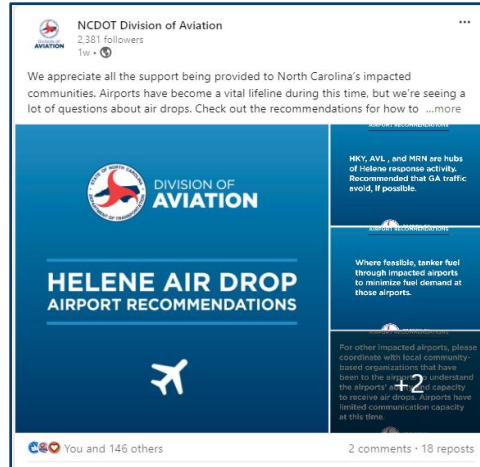
Staffing Status

NCDOT-DIVISION OF AVIATION ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Hurricane Helene Response

Topics For Today



Coordinating Safe Air Operations

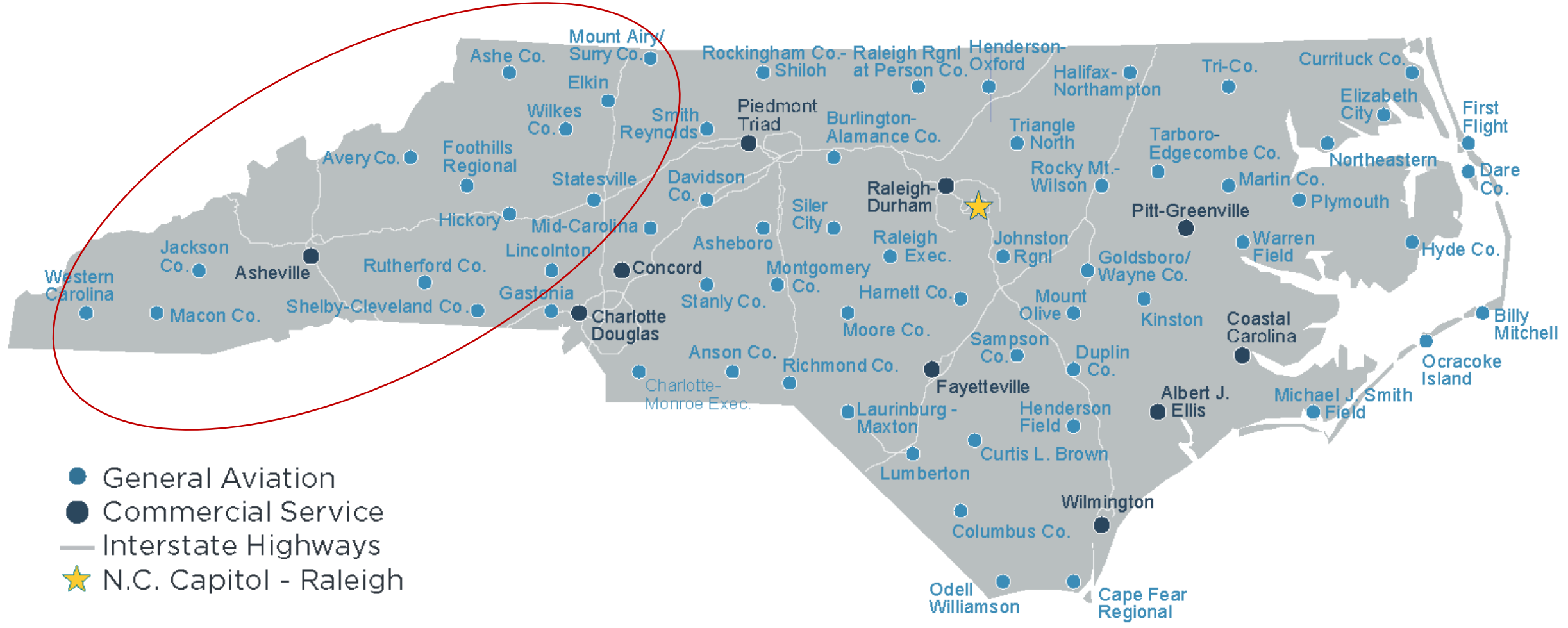
Communication

Aerial Imagery

North Carolina's Public Use Airports

72 Airports | 10 Commercial Service, 62 General Aviation

▶ 96% of N.C. population within 30-minute drive of a public airport



Coordinating Air Operations Safety

GO! NC **NCDOT Airport Status During a Weather Event**

Find address or place

Map Tips

NCDOT Airport Status

- Open
- Closed
- Not Reported

HKY - Hickory Regional Airport

Zoom to

Airport Status	
Normal operations?	No
Can you pump fuel?	Yes
AvGas gallons available	7,000
Jet A gallons available	12,000
Published NOTAMs for your flight?	Yes

Aviation - emergency response reporting

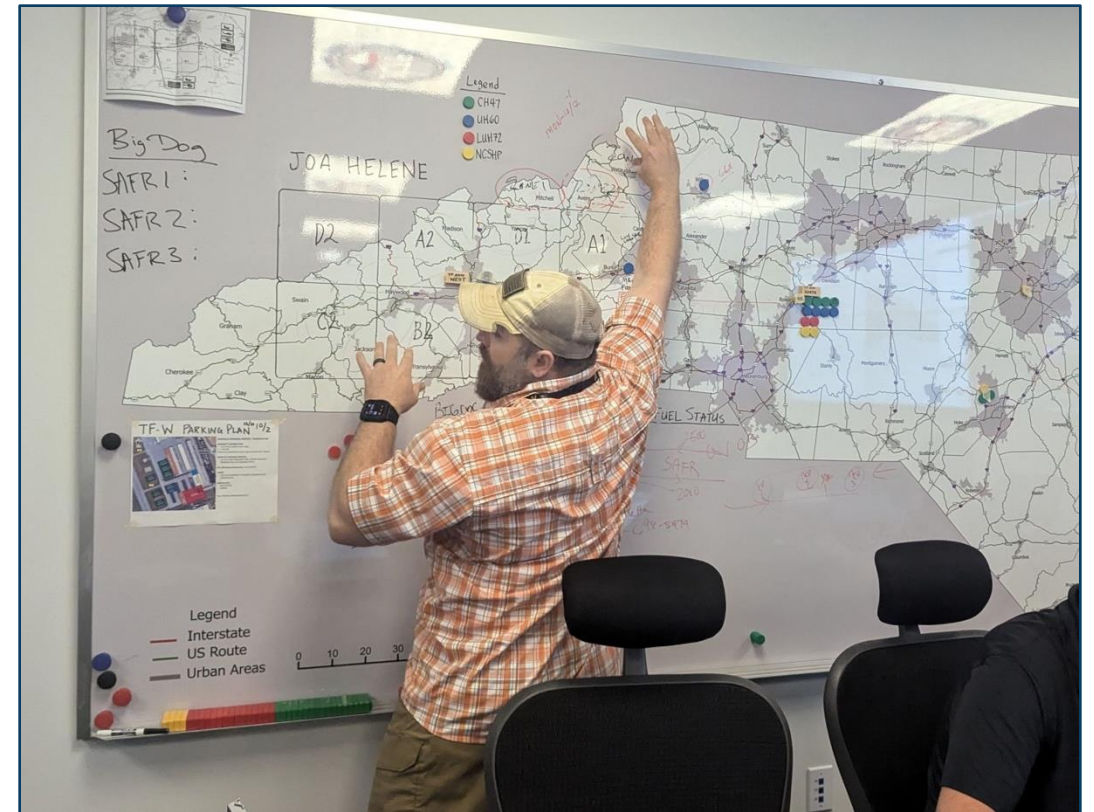
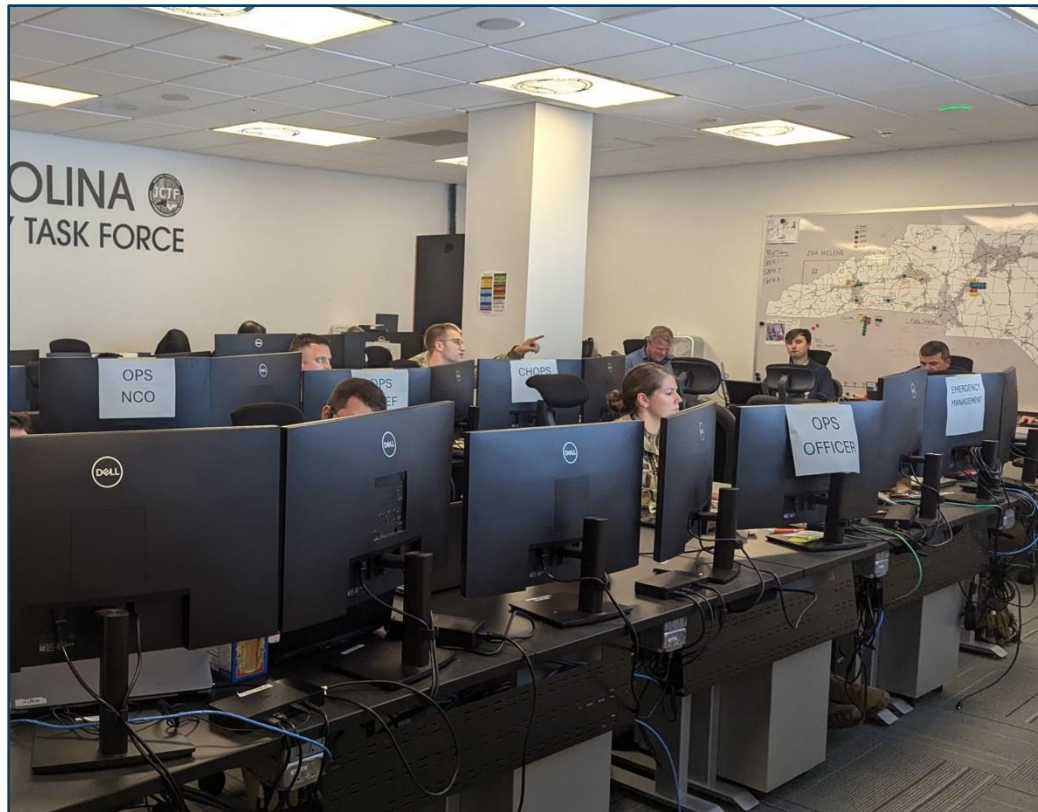
Emergency Event Log

Airport	Normal Op.	What's...	Contact	Contact Email	Contact C...	In the air...	Are there ...	In the stu...	Can you ...	Type of p...
Forsyth Regional Airport	All Operations	9/30/2024 12:23 PM	Erin Bentley	rkondapall@ncdot.gov	828-448-5728	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No Issues
Hickory Regional Airport	Emergency Op.	9/30/2024 12:10 PM	Dan Harwood	rkondapall@ncdot.gov	828-58472	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Normal Operat...
Shelby-Clayland County Regional	All Operations	9/30/2024 11:55 AM	Jack Rock	emwoka@ncdot.gov	704-943321	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No Issues

Critical Infrastructure SERT:
 Airport Operation Status
 Fuel Updates

Air State Emergency Response Team (AirSERT)

Coordination between NCDOT, FAA,
NC National Guard, NC Emergency Management, Civil Air Patrol



Complex & Congested Air Operations



Operational Challenges



Runway closures due to incidents | Fuel Supplies | Near misses

Community-Based Organization Partnerships

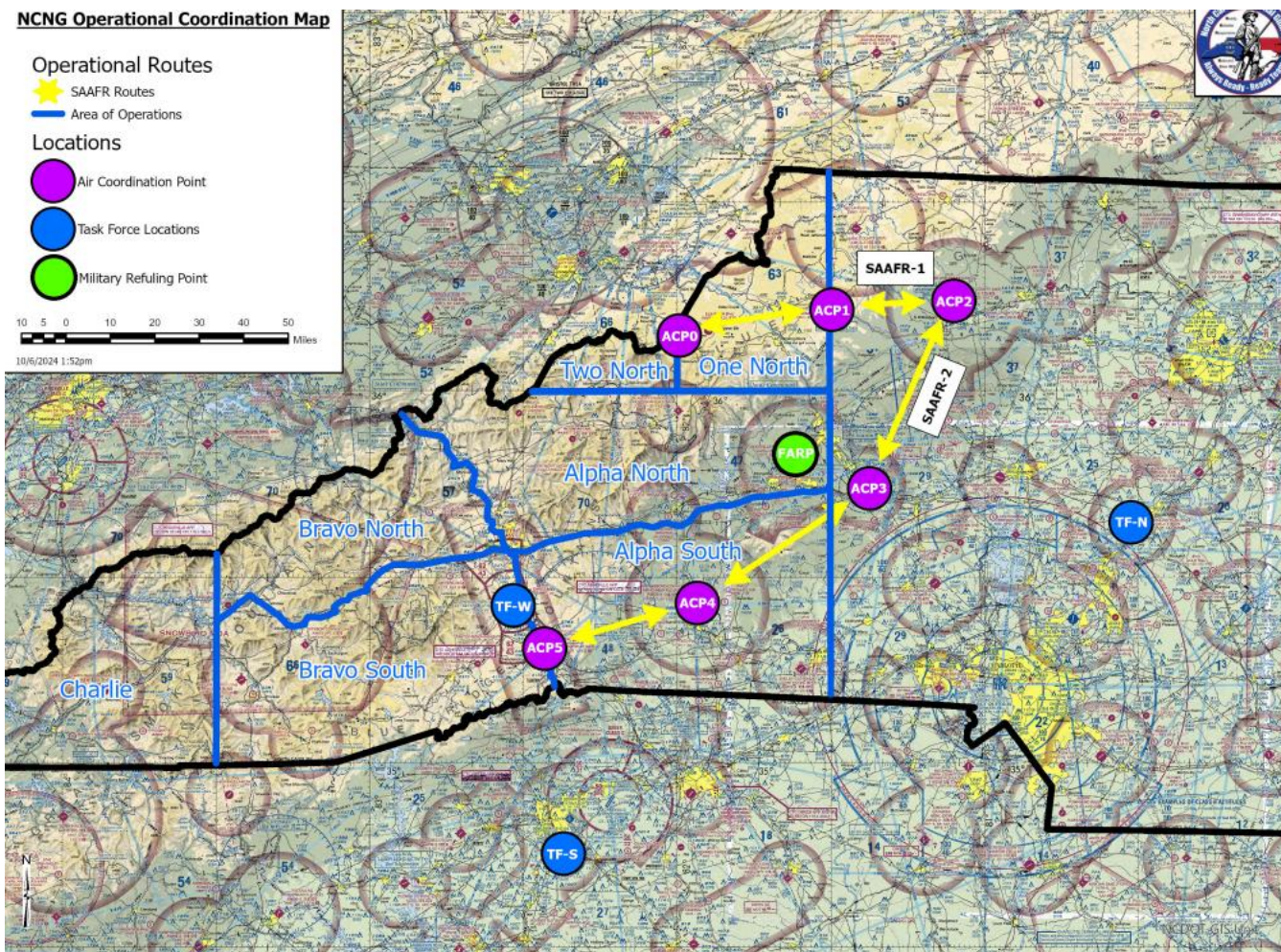


General Aviation Airport Staffing Augmentation



Evolving Safety Strategy Implementation

Strategy deployment evolving as situation changes



- Prior Permission Requests (PPR)
- Standard-use Army Aircraft Flight Routes (SAAFR)
 - *First time used domestically*
- Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFRs)
- Temporary Air Traffic Control Towers

Evolving Communication Strategy

Identifying the Needs

RE: Helene Impacts to NC Airports

Gallas, Rebecca J
 To: Gallas, Rebecca J
 Cc: 'Emily Winberg'; Aviation_All; Kritzer, Jamie B; Barthe, Bridgette M
 Bcc: 'gvoos@nbaa.org'; 'Heaton, Stacey'; 'Black, Rans (FAA)'; +239 others

9/30/2024

Good afternoon all-

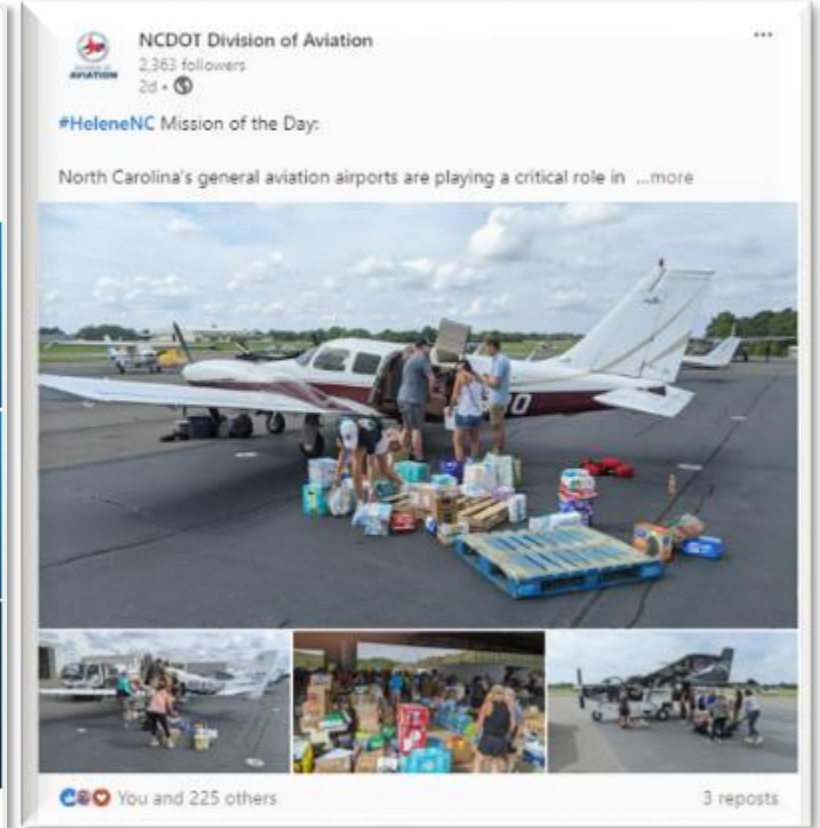
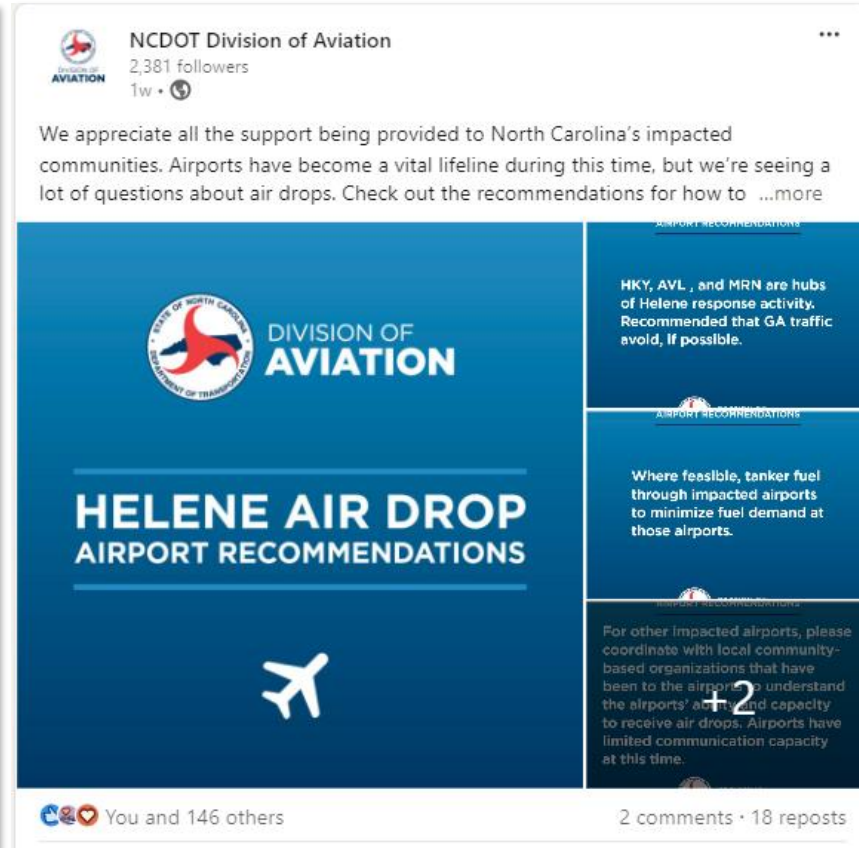
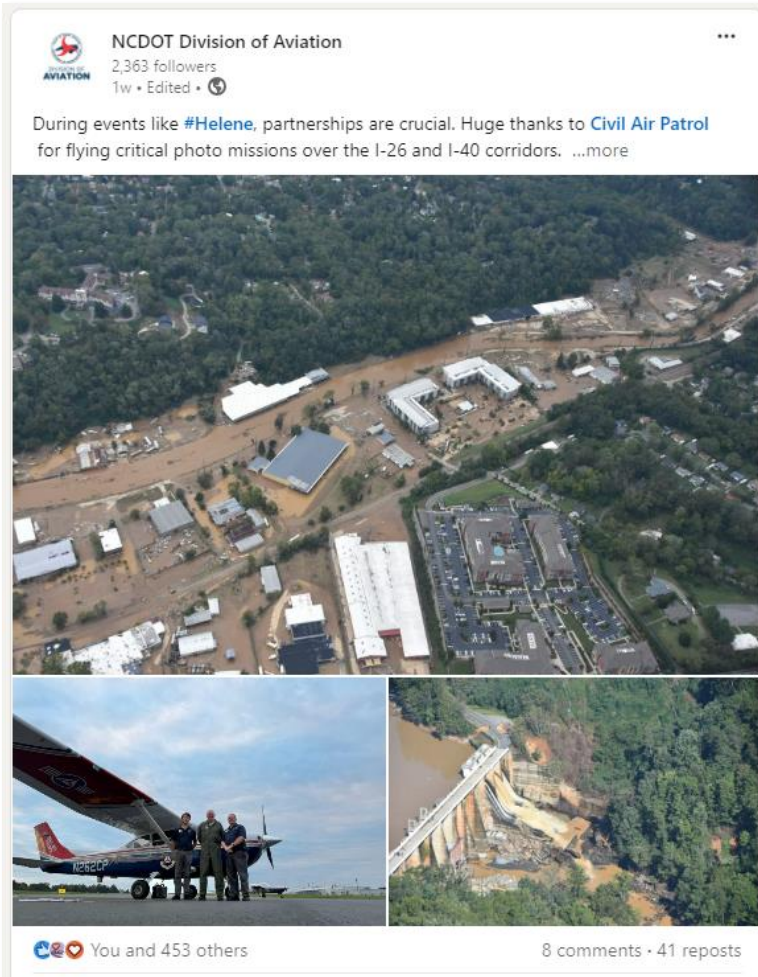
We have received numerous requests regarding how the western airports have fared. We are requesting regular updates from impacted airports for SERT purposes. Today we requested if the impacted airports were ok with us sharing out their status to you all for awareness and all consented. Please see below for the latest information we have regarding airport status in impacted areas. If you are an airport with impacts and were not included on the list, please reply to me directly for tracking and inclusion.

Please note that fuel supplies may be limited at some locations and should be prioritized for emergency operations. **We continue to encourage aircraft not participating in emergency operations to limit travel to the impacted General Aviation airports as they are being stretched with fuel and staffing to manage a high tempo of emergency operations.**

Airport	Status	Comms	Power	Infrastructure Damage
145	Open	Yes	Yes	N/A

- **High Social Media engagement:** by pilots, aviation stakeholders
- **Division of Aviation:** existing direct relationships with airports and aviation stakeholders
 - Early Division of Aviation emails reshared with pilot groups and snapshotted on social media
- **Volume and Diversity of Information:** Multiple partners (FAA, National Guard, NCEM AirSERT, airports and more)

Importance of Social Media



@ncaviation



ncaviation



@ NCDivisionOfAviation

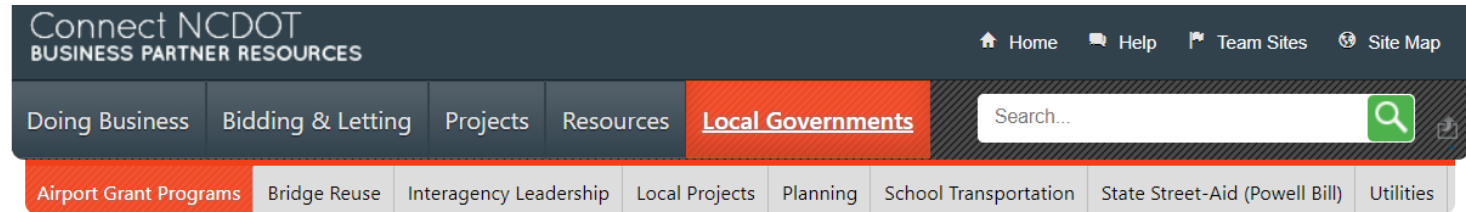


@ NCDOT Division Of Aviation



Establishing Authoritative Information Source

Bring together information across FAA, NC National Guard, other agencies and best practices



Helene: Pilots & Aviation Partners Coordination

Connect NCDOT > Local Governments > Airport Grant Programs > Helene: Pilots & Aviation Partners Coordination

Since Hurricane Helene, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has reported a significant increase in air traffic over western North Carolina. This surge includes private aircraft, the North Carolina National Guard, military partners and search and rescue missions, all working to aid those in need. The increase in air traffic necessitates coordination to ensure safe, efficient relief and rescue operations.

Safety Coordination Strategies

In collaboration with federal and state agencies—including the FAA, NC National Guard, and the Department of Defense and North Carolina Division of Aviation, the Air State Emergency Response Team (AirSERT) has implemented several critical safety strategies.

Prior Permission Request Lines (PPR)

What are PPRs and why are they needed?

With a PPR line, pilots call ahead to schedule landing and unloading times and aircraft parking, so aircraft are spaced out to ensure ramp space and fuel are available and reducing congestion and risk of incidents. This system helps manage traffic flow, ensuring safe and efficient ground


NCDOT Division of Aviation
2,381 followers
3d • Edited •


Just to clear things up—Western NC airports are still operated by local Airport Managers and Airport Sponsors during the #HeleneNC response. ...more

Hurricane Helene : Fact vs Rumor

RUMOR:
FEMA Is operating and controlling airports in western North Carolina.

FACT:
FEMA is not controlling any airports in western North Carolina. Airport Managers and Airport Sponsors are the legal entities in charge of operating airports, even in Helene response. FEMA staff may be present at airports as they deploy supplies and stage for Helene response. Airports are critical for accessing impacted NC communities for response and recovery efforts for partners including FEMA.

 **DIVISION OF AVIATION**

 You and 205 others

6 comments • 40 reposts

Social Media Metrics

As a GA pilot, I have particularly appreciated the Division's most recent updates, I'm going to call them blue screen updates. In a pile of messaging from various sources, the Division's have been succinct, relevant, and factual. Nice job.

Love ·   7 | Reply



125
Posts



691,800
Impressions



2,651
Increase followers



14,168
reactions

September 26 – October 6

Aerial Imagery

Helene Aerial Imagery



I-40 at Old Fort Mtn



Lake Lure Dam



Swannanoa Bridge

Aerial Imagery Response

Having the right tool at the right moment



1 - Civil Air Patrol

- First flights in due to cloud cover
- Handheld Cameras
- Later conducted photogrammetry level missions

2 - UAS Operations to survey site specific

- Mission Request Form / Discussions with Divisions
- Direct missions from State EOC (cutoff communities)
- Ongoing support: "See Something, Fly Something"



3 - Photogrammetry Flights

- Analysis level data for long-term recovery / rebuild

The Stats

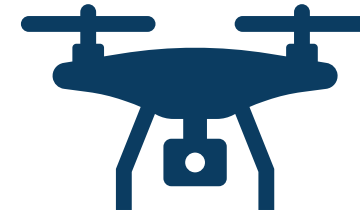


1.6 M
Acres Flown

4,162
Exposures

11
Missions

Additional missions by Civil Air Patrol, NOAA



6,678
Images or videos

18
Teams

26
Pilots

300
Missions

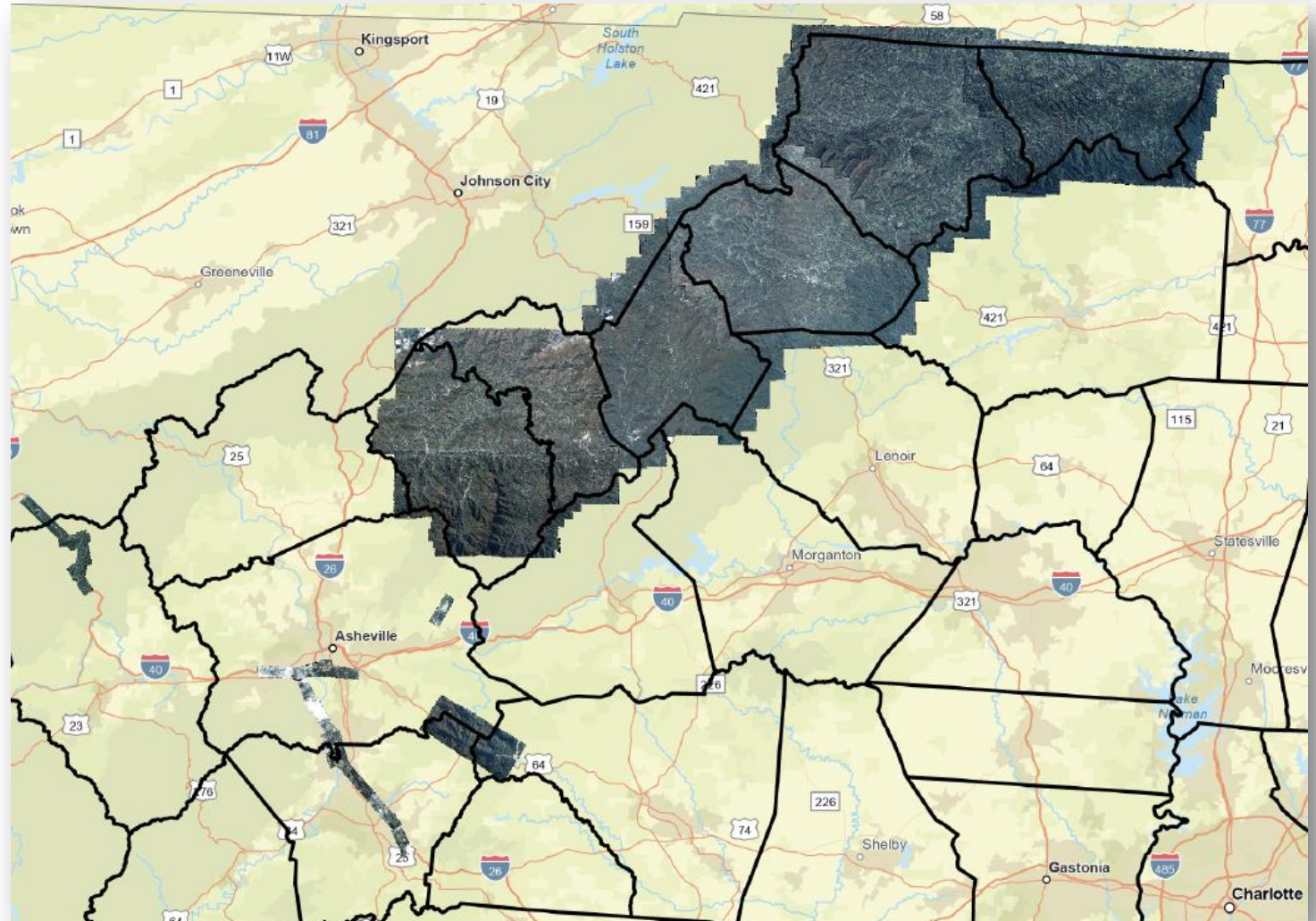


UAS Mission Support

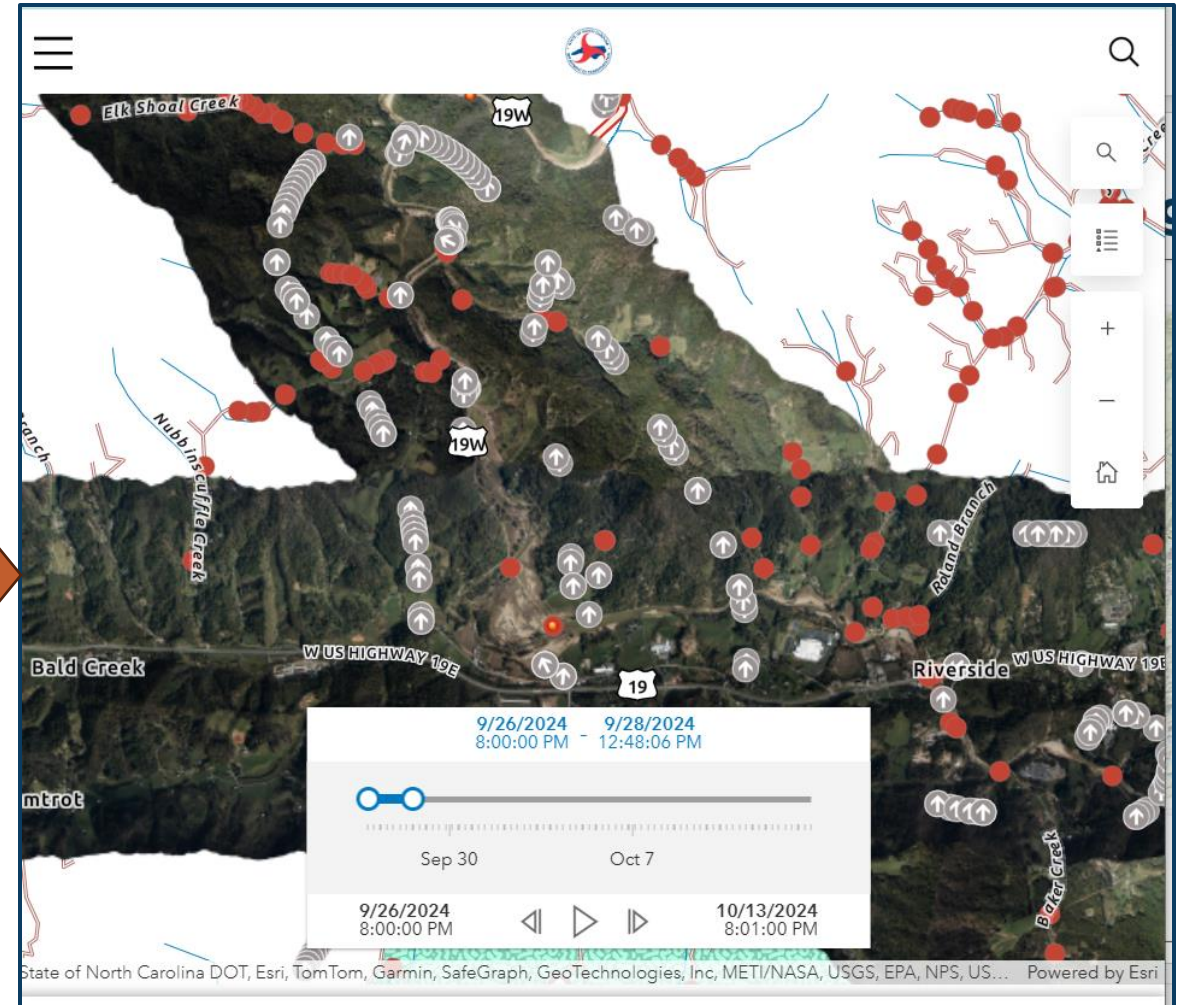
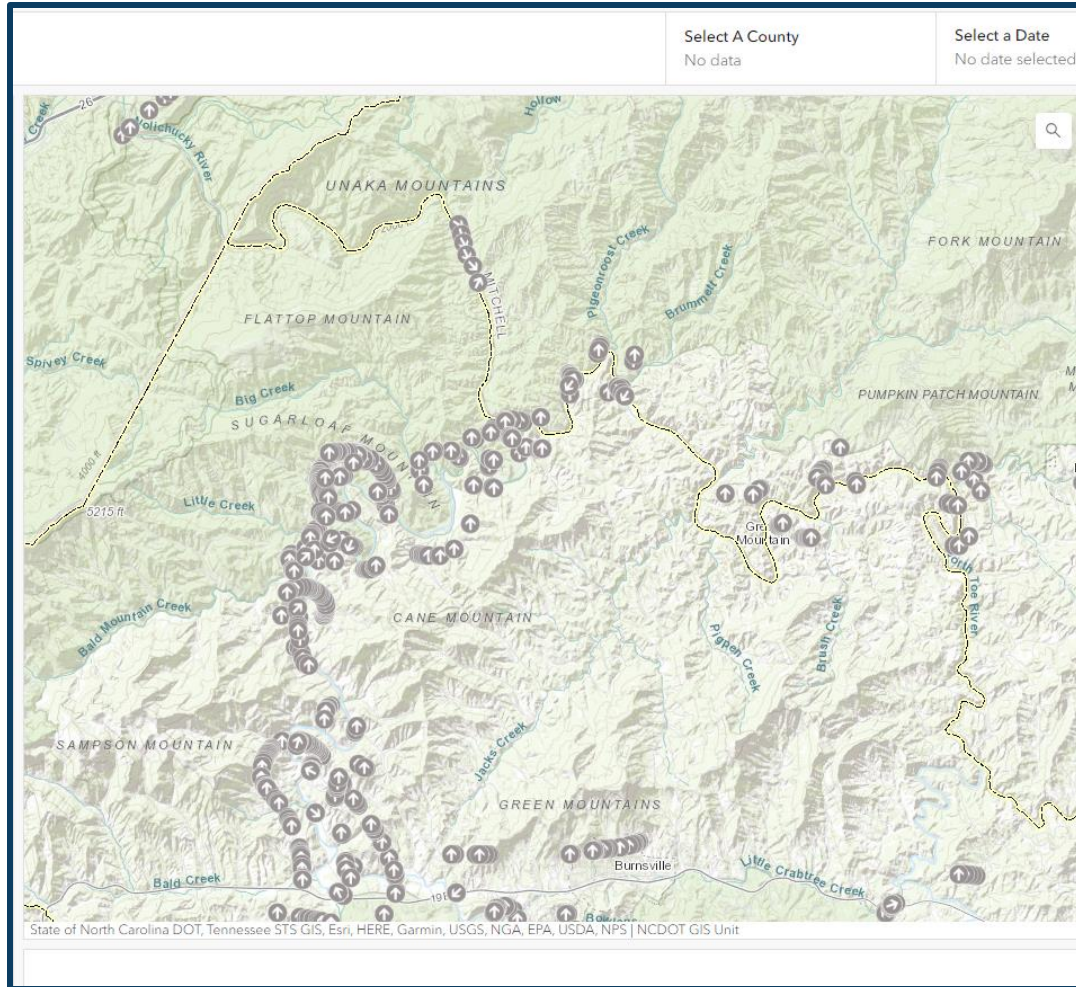


Helene Reconnaissance Missions – manned aircraft

Flight	Area (acres)	Exposures
Alleghany	241,606	373
Ashe	374,317	593
Asheville	38,331	142
Avery	252,391	389
Batcave	31,392	165
Burnett Reservoir	4,324	10
Haywood (I-40)	12,878	66
Lake Lure	3320	4
US 19 / NC 197	339,854	1963
Watauga	292,992	453
11 Flights	1,591,406 acres	4,162 exposures



Images to insights using GIS



Drone -> Drone + CAP -> All image types + analytics

UAS Success Story – I-40 over the Catawba River



UAS team on TSMO Unit mission discovers compromised bridge with massive scouring, still fully open to traffic



Aviation, Structures and TSMO unit coordinated to further inspect, then reduce lanes for safety



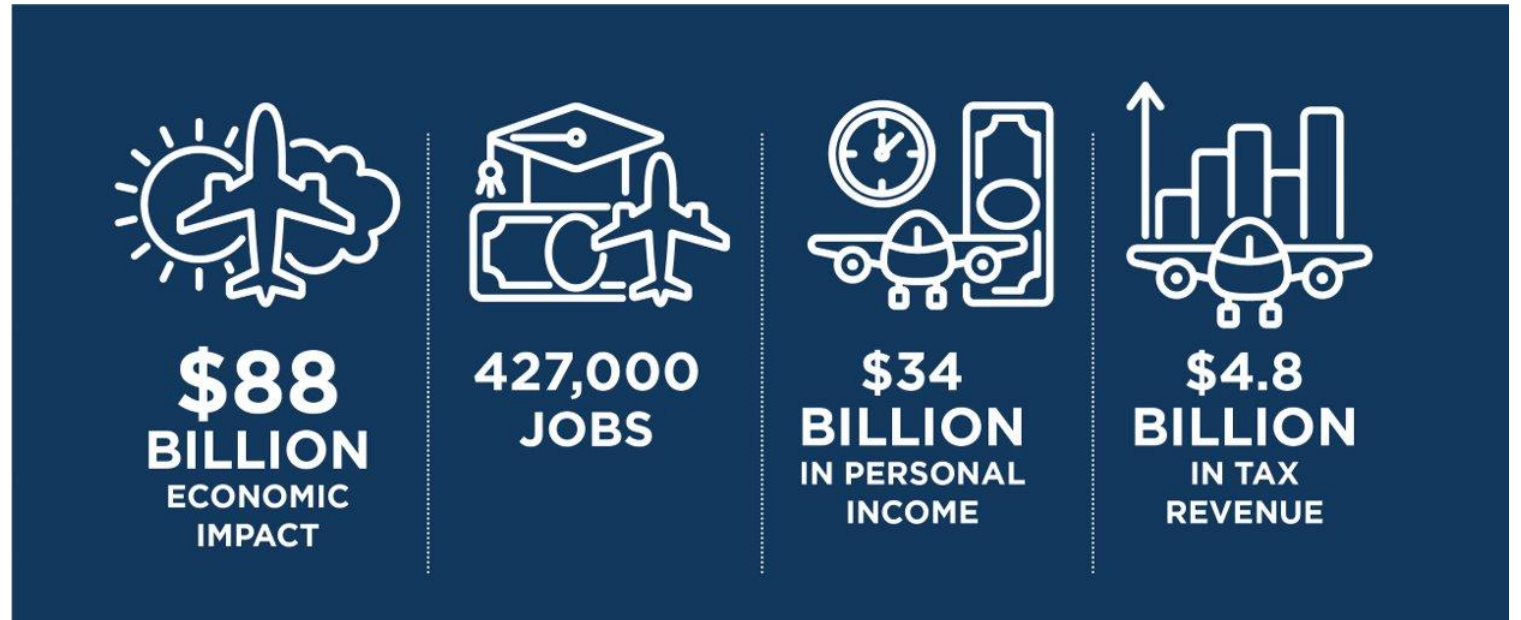
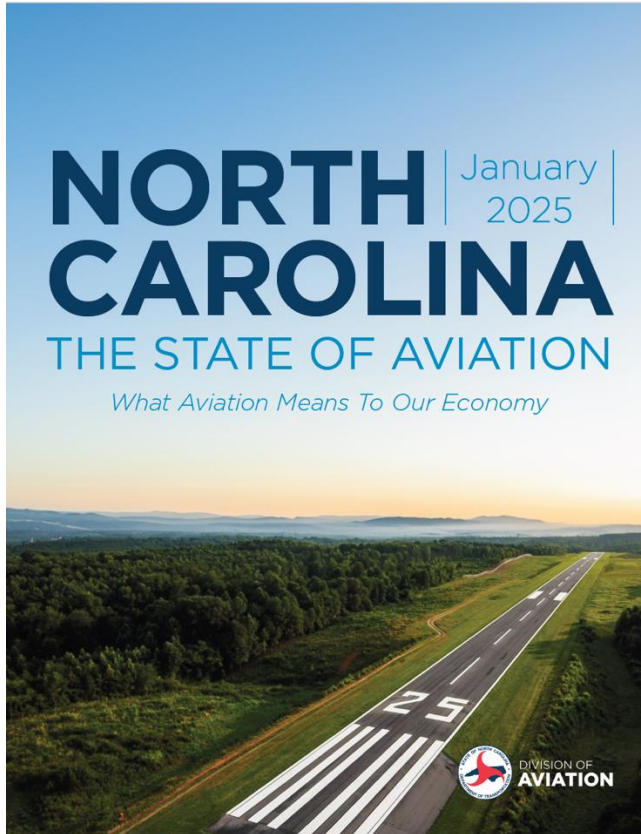
A Joint Effort with Local Airports

- Significant increase in flights through Western N.C. airspace with 0 aviation related injuries or fatalities
- 300+ drone and photogrammetry missions
- Daily fixed wing flights to survey damage
- Multiple websites and social posts created for pilot coordination and safety
- Relief coordination for general aviation airports
 - Multi-state staffing support
 - Expedited fuel deliveries
- 15+ national media interviews, articles written, and Congressional briefings held

Division & Funding Updates

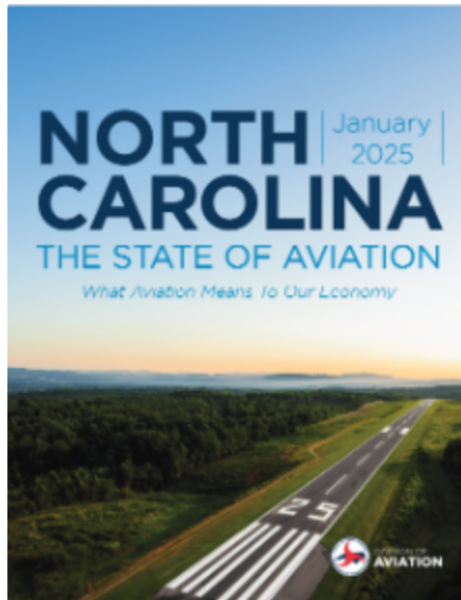
2025 North Carolina: The State of Aviation

Key Findings: \$88+ Billion N.C. Airport Economic Impact Annually
11% of North Carolina's GDP



Capturing Campaign Reach and Impact

Visit the [Outreach Campaign Dashboard](#) to enter your outreach results



North Carolina: The State of Aviation 2025 Outreach Campaign Dashboard

SPREAD THE WORD: \$88 Billion Annual Airport Impact

Follow the **link below** to track your outreach results:

1. Enter **each presentation** you make on your impacts.
2. Enter **each published story** (newspaper, TV, newsletter, etc.) that publicizes your impacts.

Submit a presentation or published story >

Results to Date

Presentations

1

Stakeholders Reached

75

Published Stories

14

Quicklinks

[Aviation Website with Brochure and Video >](#)

[Outreach Toolkit on State Aid Connect site >](#)

Presentations

Organization	Date of Presentation	Est Size of Audience	Group Presented To
NCDOT Aviation	01/02/25	75	Airport Pre-Release Briefing on 2025 N.C.-The State of Aviation Report


Published Stories



Organization	Date Story Ran/Aired/Was Distributed	Who Published	URL to the Story Online
NCDOT Division of Aviation	01/14/25	WilmingtonBiz	https://www.wilmingtonbiz.com
NCDOT Division of Aviation	01/14/25	General Aviation News	https://generalaviationnews.com

FY24 SMART Grant: RESPOND

Remote Emergency Support Program for Operational Needs and Delivery

Remote Emergency Support Program for Operational Needs and Delivery (RESPOND)
FY 2024 Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grants Program



 Submitted by: 
North Carolina Department of Transportation July 2024

- Award: \$1.1 Million
- Drone-in-a-Box (DIAB) deployment for emergency response
- Lumberton, NC – intense flooding during Hurricanes Matthew and Florence
- Connected systems with remote deployment capabilities

12 airports receive 2025 Aviation Career Education (ACE) Academy grants



- Charlotte-Monroe Executive Airport
- Curtis L. Brown Jr. Field Airport
- Fayetteville Regional Airport
- Henderson-Oxford Airport
- Kinston Regional Jetport
- Laurinburg-Maxton Airport
- Northeastern Regional Airport
- Smith Reynolds Airport
- Statesville Regional Airport
- Triangle North Executive Airport
- Washington-Warren Airport
- Wilmington International Airport

Airport project updates due in EBS by Feb. 7

► *Find details in Wasan Alkaissi email, sent Nov. 8*



- Confirm/update cost estimates, funding year, local interest
- New safety project requests – alert your APM
- NCDOT prioritization schedule:
 - **February-March** – review for completeness, eligibility, priority and prioritize
 - **August** – projects begin being sent to Board of Transportation, based on readiness to expend funds

GA AIRPORTS

Request 3 Years of FAA Airport Infrastructure Grant (AIG) Funding

Federal Fiscal Year (October-September)	Total Announced for N.C. GA Airports	Total Requested by N.C. GA Airports	Date Funds Must Be Requested from NCDOT
FFY 2022	\$12.3 M	\$3.4 M	April 10, 2025
FFY 2023	\$12.7 M	\$2.0 M	April 10, 2026
FFY 2024	\$12.8 M	\$1.1 M	April 10, 2027
FFY 2025	\$13.2 M		April 10, 2028
FFY 2026	TBA		April 10, 2029
TOTAL	\$51,061,000	\$6,450,330	

FEDERAL GRANTS FOR GA AIRPORTS

Deadlines for expiring 2020 and 2021 federal nonprimary entitlement (NPE) and other 2021 federal funds (APP/DISC)



- **Jan. 27: Deadline for new applications to obligate expiring 2020 & 2021 funds**
- **Feb. 28: Deadline for relinquishing 2020 & 2021 NPE funds so they can be transferred to another airport**
- **April 1: Deadline for all changes to 2020 & 2021 funds to be requested for Division approval**
- **Expiration deadline: June 30, 2025**

EXPIRING FEDERAL GRANTS FOR GA AIRPORTS

NPE, COVID relief, APP, DISC, SUPP funds

2020				2021			
Source	Awarded	Unobligated Balance	Unspent Balance	Source	Awarded	Unobligated Balance	Unspent Balance
APP	\$5.2M	\$9,330	\$581,045	APP	\$5.4M	\$31,232	\$161,767
NPE	\$11.6M	\$185,252	\$1.3M	NPE	\$8.1M	\$2.6M	\$7.5M
CARES	\$1.9M	\$71,656	\$259,037	ARPA	\$1.5M	\$300,656	\$859,609
SUPP	\$600,000	\$134,240	\$246,040	DISC.	\$4.85M	\$0	\$0
CARES Match	\$66,000	\$14,247	\$26,670	ARPA Match	\$538,000	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$19.3M	\$414,725	\$2.4M	TOTAL	\$20.3M	\$2.9M	\$8.5M

Questions? Comments?

Staying Connected

FY 2025 Airport Community Meeting Schedule

Quarterly, 4th Tuesdays
10:30 a.m., Virtual

- Jan. 28, 2025
- April 22, 2025





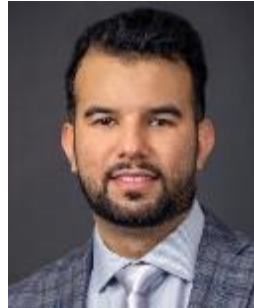
Raj Kondapalli
Western Region Lead
Interim NW Region



Tommy Mann
Eastern Region Lead
Interim SE Region



Robin Peele
Northeast Region



Mostafa Moradi
Southwest Region



Mortaza Habibi
Commercial Service Airports

Airport Project Managers (APMs)

Your go-to resource for airport development

- Primary contact for airports
- Annual planning meetings
- Airport Layout Plans/Master Plans
- Project meetings
- Safety & compliance support
- Education and training
- Mini “FAA Airports District Office”

View [updated APM map](#) on the [Connect site](#), bottom right column

**Thanks for all you do to develop a strong
public airport system for North Carolina!**
