

COMING UP

- March 6**
 NCAA Region Two Meeting, Raleigh-Durham International Airport
- March 16**
 Airport Cooperative Research Program Webinar, Analyzing Stormwater Management Projects at Airports
- March 20**
 NCAA Region Three Meeting, Asheville Regional Airport
- March 25**
 Wildlife Hazard Training, Fayetteville Regional Airport
- April 20-22**
 NCAA Annual Conference, Wilmington
- May 29**
 Deadline to spend expiring 2016 NPE funds

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Aircraft Recycling Company to Bring 475 Jobs, \$100M Investment to N.C. Global TransPark



Gov. Roy Cooper welcomes Aircraft Solution’s managing director

Aircraft Solutions USA Inc., a leader in managing aircraft at the end of their service life, will establish a new subsidiary at North Carolina’s Global TransPark to recycle aircraft parts and materials. The company will create 475 jobs and invest nearly \$100 million to establish the new aircraft recycling center in Lenoir County, Governor Roy Cooper announced in December.

“Our state’s aerospace industry is taking off with the Global TransPark as a hub in rural eastern North Carolina,” said Governor Cooper. “From first in flight to first in skilled workers, global companies like Aircraft Solutions will find North Carolina to be a great place to grow and thrive.”

Aircraft Solutions serves commercial and military clients with aircraft that have reached their end-of-life stage and are ready for decommissioning. In phase one, the company’s new recycling center will remove, catalog and inspect parts, certifying them as usable, repairable or unfit for service. The company plans to establish a paint shop in phase two.

“After intensive research...we are confident that Global TransPark of Lenoir [County] North Carolina is the right location for our tremendous project,” said Dr. Sven Daniel Koechler, USA managing director. “With our unique hangar system and our self-developed most effective new recycling technology, we are able to recycle up to 70 more Boeing 737 a year and will invest not only in the construction and modern equipment, but also in qualified workers and their families.”

The average salary for the new positions will reach as high as \$47,069. The Lenoir County average wage is \$36,766. Aircraft Solutions’ project in North Carolina will be facilitated, in part, by a Job Development Investment Grant and will add nearly \$958 million to the state’s economy over the next 12 years.

Sheila Gibbs Named Division of Aviation Grants Administrator



Sheila Gibbs joined the Division of Aviation as grants administrator in December, filling the position vacated by Betsy Beam, who was promoted to manager of finance and grants. Gibbs is responsible for managing all state and federal grants.

A NCDOT staffer since 1996, she worked extensively with the Local Programs Management Office supervising federal contracts and is very experienced with the EBS online grants management system and with SAP. She will serve as a strong resource for assisting airports with grants management.

Gibbs holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from North Carolina State University.

Sheila Gibbs

Bo Carson Named Manager of Triangle North Executive Airport



Veteran economic developer and interim airport manager since January 2018, Bo Carson has been named manager of Triangle North Executive Airport in Franklin County.

Carson served three years as existing industry coordinator for Franklin County Economic Development and six years for the Research Triangle Regional Partnership as director of research and vice president of business development. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in geography from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Bo Carson

Valerie Steele Takes Helm at Mid-Carolina Regional Airport



Valerie Steele became director of Mid-Carolina Regional Airport in Rowan County in October. She previously served 14 years at Raleigh-Durham International Airport as operations officer and supervisor.

Steele holds a Bachelor of Science degree in aviation/airway management and operations from Jacksonville University and a master's degree in management and leadership from Western Governors University.

Valerie Steele

Wilmington Airport Executives Honored by Business Journal



Donna Girardot



Julie Wilsey

Greater Wilmington Business Journal's inaugural WilmingtonBiz 100 has honored two Wilmington International Airport officials. The new initiative recognizes the top 100 Power Players, Influencers, Innovators, Connectors and Rising Stars impacting southeastern North Carolina's business landscape.

Donna Girardot, chair of the New Hanover County Airport Authority board of directors, was recognized as an [influencer](#) – a changemaker in the region. Julie Wilsey, director at Wilmington International Airport, was named a [power player](#) – a businessperson or official having the greatest impact on the region's business and economic landscape.

Multi-year Grant Project Program Launches, Aids Planning and Budgeting



Terminal building construction at Lumberton Regional Airport

The Division of Aviation released the first four-year project plan to airports in December with nearly \$161 million in infrastructure projects prioritized for potential funding through state and federal grant programs.

The culmination of two years of work, the multi-year plan outlines airport requests for infrastructure development projects that have been vetted by the Division and will be considered for grant funding as funds are available.

The shift is expected to allow airports to better budget local funds, help consultants plan workload and staffing needs, minimize time required for airports to update project requests annually and allow for better three-year minority goal setting based on planned projects.

FY 2021 Project Prioritization Schedule

Jan. 17, 2020	All project updates due from airports in Project Request System
January 2020	Division airport project managers complete initial review of new projects
February-March 2020	Division staff review and select recommended projects for funding
July-December 2020	Selected projects are submitted to NCDOT Executive Leadership and the Board of Transportation for funding approval
October 2020	Projects selected for federal apportionment funding are submitted for BOT approval, pending funds available from annual block grant

Key Dates for 2023-2032 State Transportation Improvement Program (P 6.0) Development

May 1, 2020

- Area-Specific Weights due
- SPOT On!ine closes for submitting projects

End of February 2021

- Quantitative scores for all projects released
- Draft list of Programmed Statewide Mobility projects released

March 1, 2021

- Regional Impact Local Input Point window opens for 3 months (closes 5/28/2021)
- Deadline for Approval of Local Input Point Assignment Methodologies

End of July 2021

- Draft list of Programmed Regional Impact Projects released

Aug. 2, 2021

- Division Needs Local Input Point window opens for 3 months (closes 10/29/2021)

February 2022

- Draft 2023-2032 STIP released

June 2022

- Anticipated BOT adoption of 2023-2032 STIP

“There’s nothing to it. What are you waiting for?”



Raleigh Executive Jetport Director Bob Heuts recalls the days before DocuSign with dismay.

“Paper documents would go back and forth between the airport, my chairman and other people here, the Division of Aviation and NCDOT at a snail’s pace,” Heuts recalls. “I live in Cary and could drop off documents, but they still needed to go downtown.”

Enter DocuSign, a quick, easy way to sign legal documents electronically. DocuSign significantly speeds up the grant administration process.

“With DocuSign, I receive a grant, we sign it here, and within hours or sometimes minutes of receiving it, we’ll be sending it back to Aviation,” Heuts says. “What used to take weeks is now done in hours or minutes.”

The Federal Aviation Administration also now uses DocuSign for official documents. Nineteen airports have so far signed up to use DocuSign. Sign up is easy and costs airports nothing.

“There’s nothing to it. What are you waiting for?” Heuts says. “If an old person like me can use it, then anyone can!”



Email the Grants Team at DOTAviationGrants@ncdot.gov to sign up for DocuSign and save yourself weeks of time approving documents.

Grants Team Initiatives Continue to Improve Grant Administration Processes

A year after completing a comprehensive Lean Six Sigma initiative that streamlined a wide range of grant administration processes, the Division’s Grants Team this fall completed two key initiatives to improve its processes and support financial responsibility in using state and federal grant funding for airport projects.

A customer satisfaction survey completed in August revealed airports and their project consultants have high levels of satisfaction with grant processes but desire more training on the grant administration system, more communication and online historical grant data. The team is focusing on those improvements. A grants system training was offered for consultants in February. Airport managers training is also planned.

Meanwhile, the Grants Team developed and distributed financial risk assessments to all 72 system airports in 2019. The assessment revealed 41 airports at low risk, 29 with moderate risk and two with high risk. Desk audits completed by Dec. 31 helped the 31 airports improve their processes to lower their financial risk. The next (now-annual) risk assessment surveys are being distributed in March.

A new claim form coming in March will streamline the grants process, as well. The claim section will auto-fill with each invoice entry so that the system will ensure requested amounts match total invoice amounts. A step-by-step tutorial will be rolled out with this update, and Grants Team members will be available for assistance, as needed.

COMING SOON: EBS changes will soon allow updates to cash flow through grant modifications. These will be mandatory updates for open grants with schedule changes or funds added since the Request for Aid. Watch for a Division email coming soon.

Aviation Launches Economic Development Strategic Planning



More than 50 airport, transportation and economic development leaders convened in Raleigh Jan. 29 to help the Division of Aviation develop a business development strategic plan for expanding aviation-related economic impact across North Carolina. The plan will chart a course that Aviation Business Development Manager Amanda Conner will implement in collaboration with airports and partner organizations across the state.

NCDOT Chief Deputy Secretary David Howard and Deputy Secretary for Multimodal Transportation Julie White opened the workshop by highlighting air transportation's significant impact in North Carolina and charging the group with partnering with our public use airports to extend the benefits aviation offers to every corner of the state. Chris Chung, CEO of the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina, and Susan Fleetwood, executive director of economic development for the

N.C. Department of Commerce, both attended the workshop in support of the initiative.

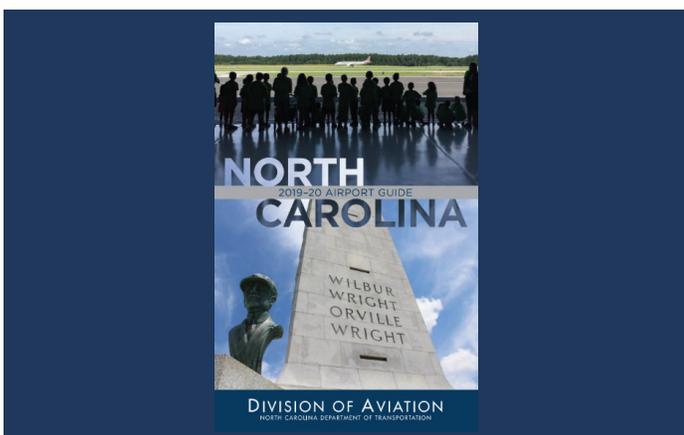
Participants identified a wide range of strategies the state should pursue to expand aviation's impact, a list of resources needed to support that work and potential roles the Division of Aviation could fill, including serving as convener and facilitator of the collaborative effort.

The Division will convene a similar gathering of workforce development leaders to inform the talent strategies and resources needed to support aviation economic development.

Conner will also convene regional groups to get additional input, then synthesize the input received from all stakeholders to develop a strategic plan for launch July 1.

AIRPORT TRAINING & RESOURCES

N.C. Aviation Charts and Guides



Digital versions of North Carolina aviation charts and guides may be downloaded from the [aviation website](#).

ACRP Offers Stormwater Management Webinar in March

The Airport Cooperative Research Program (ACRP) will host a free webinar for airport personnel in March.

[Make Your Budget Work – Analyzing Stormwater Management Projects at Airports](#) on March 16, 2-3:30 p.m., will highlight the steps airports can take to evaluate and promote environmentally friendly approaches to stormwater management.

ACRP, a program of the Transportation Research Board, offers free webinars and publications for airport practitioners to learn about current research and solutions to issues facing airports. CEUs for ACRP webinars are provided by the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE). Learn more at trb.org/ACRP.

Concord-Padgett Regional Airport Celebrates 25th Anniversary



(Left) The airport community turned out to celebrate. (Top, right) NCDOT Deputy Secretary for Multimodal Transportation Julie White was keynote speaker. (Bottom, right) All current and former airport directors attended the celebration. Pictured are Susan Green (second from left), assistant aviation director, Dirk Vanderleest (right), aviation director, and former directors (left to right) John Crosby, Ray Farrington and Richard Lewis.

Concord-Padgett Regional Airport (JQF) on Nov. 18 celebrated 25 years as one of the fastest-growing, most successful airports in the country. The airport opened in 1994 primarily to serve as a reliever airport for the region as Charlotte Douglas International Airport (CLT) was growing as a hub.

One of the newest in the system, it became one of the busiest general aviation airports almost instantly due to its location across Interstate 85 from Charlotte Motor Speedway. Its proximity to NASCAR garages attracted the racing community while leisure travelers enjoyed having an alternative to CLT, one

of North America's busiest airports, to access the Charlotte area. In 2013, Allegiant Air began offering scheduled passenger service to Orlando Sanford International, necessitating upgrades to the terminal as Concord Regional transformed into N.C.'s tenth commercial service airport. In addition to Orlando, Allegiant currently offers flights to Fort Lauderdale, New Orleans, Punta Gorda, St. Petersburg/Clearwater and Destin/Fort Walton Beach. Service to West Palm Beach began in November.

The airport was renamed in 2018 to honor retired Concord Mayor Scott Padgett, who had served in that position since 2001.

Tri-County Airport Breaks Ground on Terminal Building



Tri-County Airport (ASJ) near Ahoskie in January broke ground on its new terminal building.

The \$1.69 million, 4,269-square-foot building is expected to be completed and open to the public by the end of 2020.

Terminals act as the front doors of their communities, welcoming business leaders and others who could be bringing jobs and investment with them.

With this new facility, ASJ will be even better positioned to help strengthen the economy of that community as it leaves a lasting first impression on the people who come through its doors.

Airport Milestones and Events to Share?

Contact NCDOT Aviation Communications Specialist James Pearce at jpearce2@ncdot.gov for help publicizing them.

Shelby-Cleveland County Regional Airport Opens T-Hangars



Shelby-Cleveland County Regional Airport (EHO) took another step toward becoming fully self-sustaining in December with the opening of a \$3.6 million complex of three new 10-aircraft t-hangars.

The airport already operates at nearly break-even financially. The projected \$90,000 a year rent from a waiting list of aircraft will further strengthen its balance sheet. With the hangar project, state-of-the-art terminal building and recent runway rehabilitation, the community now boasts one of the state's finest general aviation airports.

Transportation Summit Features First Autonomous Aerial Vehicle Demo



NCDOT, as part of the 2020 N.C. Transportation Summit, hosted a public demonstration of an autonomous aerial vehicle, the first ever flown North America. The vehicle, built by EHang, flew for a crowd of 200 spectators at the North Carolina State Highway Patrol test track in Raleigh. While passenger-free on this flight, the EHang 216 can carry two adults. It has been flown in other parts of the world but has never been demonstrated for the public in North America.

“Autonomous air travel is the next frontier in transportation,” said Governor Roy Cooper. “You’re witnessing a transformative moment in transportation. One day, you could be taking something like this to work or to the store. These vehicles could

Wright Brothers’ 116th Anniversary Celebrated, ‘Candy Bomber’ Honored



Orville and Wilbur Wright gave birth to powered aviation on Dec. 17, 1903, making North Carolina “First in Flight.” Every year, their achievement is celebrated by hundreds at the Wright Brothers Memorial in Kill Devil Hills with speeches, exhibits, flyovers and a chance to experience firsthand the bitter cold and blustery winds that brought the pair of innovators to the Outer Banks.

At each anniversary, the First Flight Society honors one aviation pioneer with the addition of a portrait to the First Flight Shrine. This year’s honoree was a hero with few equals.

Col. Gail Halverson, best known as “The Candy Bomber,” was a C54 pilot during the famed Berlin Air Lift. In addition to the regular supplies dropped to relieve the isolated citizens of West Berlin in the early days of the Cold War, Halverson wanted to do something special for the children, so he dropped candy. The story of this unique act of kindness and bravery became a worldwide phenomenon and made Halverson the best-remembered part of the airlift. His portrait is now on display at the Wright Brothers Memorial visitors’ center.

one day bring tremendous impact on roadway congestion and emissions.”

“First in flight isn’t something we were,” Cooper said. “It’s something we are.”

The historic flight follows years of innovation in the drone field in North Carolina. In 2019, the state saw the launch of the country’s first-ever regular, commercial drone delivery service, shipping medical samples and supplies at Raleigh’s WakeMed Hospital. NCDOT has also won numerous awards in recent years for its groundbreaking use of drones to monitor roadways and floodwaters in the wake of hurricanes Florence and Dorian.

CONSULTANT CORNER



NCDOT Aviation and IT staff offered training on the online grants system for consultants in February.

Consultants to Enter Rate Information into New System Beginning July 1

NCDOT in August implemented a new Consultant Rate Schedule (CRS) System to streamline approval of task orders. The system collects staff hourly rates, overhead percentage rates and other information from private consulting firms prequalified to do business with NCDOT.

Beginning July 1, all consultants and subconsultants that wish to do business with the Division of Aviation will be required to submit rate information into the CRS system before work orders and task orders will be reviewed. See the NCDOT [guidance document](#) for details and instructions.

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Find airport development guidance, resources and forms on the Connect NCDOT State Airport Air & FAA State Block Grant Programs webpage <https://connect.ncdot.gov/municipalities/State-Airport-Aid>

Sponsor Brief

Sponsor Brief is published quarterly by the NCDOT Division of Aviation. Send story ideas and feedback to jpearce2@ncdot.gov

The North Carolina Department of Transportation Division of Aviation promotes the economic well-being of North Carolina by developing a safe and robust air transportation system.

Bobby Walston, Aviation Director • www.ncdot.gov/aviation

