

North Carolina Transportation Network

Strategic Transportation Corridors

Overview

North Carolina's Strategic Transportation Corridors (STC) form the state's core network of multimodal transportation corridors. Combined, they move large volumes of people and freight across the regions of the state and to key markets outside of the state. The transportation facilities and services within the corridors connect centers of economic activity considered to be of statewide and regional significance.

Preserving these facilities and services, in terms of their physical condition and quality of the service they provide, supports the state's goals for economic development and will guide long-term planning at statewide, regional, and corridor levels. These strategic corridors are considered the state's highest priority when analyzed within the framework of regional or local transportation plans.

Vision

NCDOT's vision is for North Carolina to have an identified network of high-priority transportation corridors that integrate all modes and connect statewide and regional transportation-dependent activity centers, to enhance economic development, to promote highly reliable and efficient mobility and accessibility, and to support good decision-making.

Criteria

NCDOT worked with stakeholders across the state to identify the STC network. The study team focused on transportation facilities that met at least two criteria that support the network goals. These include facilities that:

- Provide a continuous network of reliable, high-speed interstate, defense or freight routes;
- Serve as major inter-regional travel corridors, moving high volumes of people, goods and services over longer distances with multiple mode opportunities; and
- Those that provide high-quality access to principal economic activity centers within and outside of North Carolina

Implementation

The STC Policy will be implemented through a variety of activities, including:

- **Work with regional planning partners** to prepare STC vision plans that reflect consistent, corridor-long performance standards and take into account regional and statewide characteristics and needs in terms of mobility, multimodal opportunities, operational performance, safety, and physical condition;
- **Preserve the inter-regional, long-distance travel needs** of STC as part of long range transportation plans;
- **Apply the highest practicable access management provisions** to promote operational efficiencies and safety, and to enhance the movement of people and freight on primary STC facilities; and
- **Preserve and support project development decisions** made prior to adoption of the STC Policy. This includes but is not limited to environmental studies, purpose and need determinations, screening of alternatives, travel corridor or mode definitions, or identification of environmental impacts and mitigation.

Goals

System Connectivity: Provide essential connections to national transportation networks critical to interstate commerce and national defense;

Mobility: Facilitate significant high-volume, inter-regional movements of people and goods across the state; and

Economic Prosperity: Support economic development and efficiency of transport logistics for economic regions and clusters of activity centers.

