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.

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Reflecting the North Carolina Strategic Transportation Corridor Policy and goals upon which the Policy is based, the strategic transportation corridors shown here comprise a network of major transportation facilities and services that are responsible for moving high volumes of people and freight across regions of the state and that must function at high levels of service in order to provide for the State's economic well-being.

The corridors depicted on this map are schematic representations of travel sheds and line placement on the map is not intended to imply improvement location.

Note: Dashed lines indicate primary rail lines that combine with the primary highway to form the color-coded Strategic Transportation Corridor.