

N. C. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY LANDSCAPE PLANTING
POLICY

IT IS THE POLICY OF THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO UTILIZE LANDSCAPE PLANTINGS WITHIN HIGHWAY RIGHTS OF WAY WHERE PRUDENT AND ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE TO ENHANCE THE ROADSIDE ENVIRONMENT, COMPLY WITH SEDIMENT CONTROL STATUTES, REDUCE ROADSIDE MOWING NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN VEGETATIVE COVERS, AND TO ENHANCE THE AESTHETIC QUALITY OF ROADSIDES INSOFAR AS POSSIBLE THROUGH THE UTILIZATION OF PLANNED SELECTION, RETENTION AND SUPPLEMENTAL INSTALLATION OF DESIRABLE PLANTS TO ASSIST IN PROMOTING HIGHWAY TRAVEL AND TOURISM THROUGHOUT NORTH CAROLINA.

LANDSCAPE PLANTING WILL BE INCLUDED ONLY IN THOSE PROJECTS OR HIGHWAY LOCATIONS WHERE ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS, PUBLIC INPUT OR STAFF ANALYSIS DETERMINES THAT PLANTING IS DESIRABLE AND NECESSARY IN ORDER THAT MAINTENANCE OF PLANTINGS WILL NOT CAUSE AN EXCESSIVE BURDEN ON HIGHWAY LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE FORCES OR MAINTENANCE FUNDS.

DEFINITIONS

A. ENVIRONMENTAL PLANTINGS:

1. SCREENING DISTRACTING OR OBJECTIONABLE VIEWS
2. SAFETY; HEAD LIGHT SCREEENS, ROADWAY DELINEATION,
REDUCE MONOTONY
- *3. NOISE ABATEMENT BUFFER
- *4. STREAM/FISH HABITAT; WETLAND RECLAMATION; WILDLIFE
HABITAT

5. WILDFLOWERS; (COMPLY WITH SECTION 130 OF 1987 SURFACE TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE ACT)
6. PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION OF NATIVE PLANT SPECIES

* ADDITIONAL FUNDING IS REQUIRED FOR THESE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND/OR PERMIT REQUIREMENTS DUE TO THEIR SPECIALIZED NATURE, UNIQUENESS, AND UNPREDICTABLE COSTS.

B. EROSION CONTROL PLANTINGS:

1. GRASSES AND LEGUMES
2. TREE AND SHRUB REFORESTATION
3. REGENERATION OF WOODY SPECIES

C. MAINTENANCE REDUCTION PLANTINGS:

1. LOW MAINTENANCE PLANTINGS AT BRIDGE END SLOPES AND OTHER SIMILAR LOCATIONS DIFFICULT TO MOW OR MAINTAIN.
2. LOW MAINTENANCE PLANTINGS IN INTERCHANGE QUADRANTS TO REDUCE MOWING AREAS.
3. DEMARCATION OF MOWED AREAS ALONG ROADSIDE.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL PLANTINGS:

1. SCENIC PLANTINGS - PLANTINGS IN INTERCHANGE LOCATIONS TO ENHANCE LANDSCAPE VIEWS, PROVIDE COLOR, TEXTURE, FORM AND IMPROVE AESTHETICS OF THE INTERCHANGE QUADRANTS.
2. PROMULGATION OF STATE FLOWER (PLANTING OF DOGWOODS TO PROMOTE STATE FLOWER).

3. WELCOME CENTERS, REST AREAS, AND VISITOR INFO. CENTERS -
USE OF REGIONAL INDIGENOUS SPECIES OF PLANTS TO PROMOTE
SCENIC BEAUTY OF TOPOGRAPHICAL REGIONS OF NORTH
CAROLINA (CREPE MYRTLES, DOGWOODS, AZALEAS,
RHODODENDRON, ETC.) & TO ENHANCE & COMPLEMENT
BUILDING STRUCTURES.

FUNDING LIMITATIONS & PRIORITIES

ALL CATEGORIES OF HIGHWAY WILL RECEIVE EROSION CONTROL PLANTINGS;
ENVIRONMENTAL, MAINTENANCE REDUCTION, AND SUPPLEMENTAL PLANTINGS
WILL BE PRIORITIZED AS FOLLOWS:

- A. INTERSTATE; 1.0% OF TIP ESTIMATE OF PROJECT
CONSTRUCTION COSTS - OR - 1.0% OF FINAL ESTIMATE OF
COMPLETED PROJECT CONSTRUCTION COSTS, ADJUSTED FOR
INFLATION.
 1. FIRST PRIORITY - PLANTING AT BRIDGE ENDS AND OTHER
HARD-TO-MOW AREAS AND MOWING
REDUCTION PLANTING IN QUADRANTS.
 2. SECOND PRIORITY - PLANTING OTHER INTERCHANGE AREAS
 3. THIRD PRIORITY - PLANT APPROACHES TO WELCOME
CENTERS, REST AREAS, VISITOR
INFORMATION CENTERS & ENTRANCES
AT STATE LINES
 4. FOURTH PRIORITY - MEDIANS AND OUTSIDE BORDERS
BETWEEN INTERCHANGES

B MAJOR PRIMARY AND URBAN SYSTEM; 0.75% OF TIP ESTIMATE OF PROJECT CONSTRUCTION COSTS - OR - 0.75% OF FINAL ESTIMATE OF COMPLETED PROJECT CONSTRUCTION COSTS, ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION.

1. FIRST PRIORITY - PLANTING URBAN MEDIANS, AT BRIDGE ENDS AND OTHER HARD-TO-MOW AREAS, AND MOWING REDUCTION PLANTING IN INTERCHANGE QUADRANTS AND AT-GRADE INTERSECTIONS.
2. SECOND PRIORITY - PLANTING APPROACHES TO REST AREAS, VISITOR INFORMATION CENTERS, STATE HISTORIC SITES, OR OTHER SIGNIFICANT TOURIST ATTRACTION SITES.
3. THIRD PRIORITY - PLANTING OTHER INTERCHANGE, INTERSECTION AND ROADSIDES BETWEEN INTERCHANGES.

C. RURAL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY ROADS; 0.50% OF TIP ESTIMATE OF PROJECT CONSTRUCTION COSTS - OR - 0.50% OF FINAL ESTIMATE OF COMPLETED PROJECT CONSTRUCTION COSTS, ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION.

1. FIRST PRIORITY - MAINTENANCE REDUCTION PLANTINGS

2. SECOND PRIORITY - SELECTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANTING
WITH APPROVAL OF THE STATE HIGHWAY
ADMINISTRATOR
3. THIRD PRIORITY - SELECTED SUPPLEMENTAL PLANTINGS
WITH APPROVAL OF THE STATE HIGHWAY
ADMINISTRATOR

PERCENTAGES OF PROJECT COSTS IN EACH CATEGORY ESTABLISH THE
MAXIMUM PLANTING DESIGN COSTS ALLOWABLE WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF
THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR.

FUNDING SOURCES

- A. INTERSTATE SYSTEM
 1. 4 R
 2. PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS
- B. MAJOR PRIMARY AND URBAN SYSTEMS
 1. F.A.P.
 2. F.A.U.
 3. PERSONALIZED LICENSE PLATE FUNDS
 4. PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS
- C. RURAL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY ROADS
 1. F.A.P.
 2. F.A.S.
 3. PERSONALIZED LICENSE PLATE FUNDS
 4. PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS