

FY 2022 USDOT Rural Surface Transportation Grant Summary

Mobility for Everyone, Everywhere in NC (MEE NC) will accelerate the deployment of high-quality, on-demand transit services to rural, low-income communities throughout North Carolina, leading to more equitable mobility and improved access to opportunities, services, and resources for transportation disadvantaged populations.

811k

SERVED BY ON-DEMAND MOBILITY

45%

PEOPLE OF COLOR ON AVERAGE IN MEE NC SERVICE AREAS

89

HISTORICALLY DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES SERVED

On-demand mobility is a technology-enabled service typically using shuttles or vans to provide pooled responsive transit with dynamic routing.



On-Demand Mobility Benefits

- ▷ **More efficient and responsive** service that responds to rider demands
- ▷ **Increases flexibility** when planning and scheduling trips
- ▷ **Provides transit** to low density, hilly, or otherwise difficult to serve areas
- ▷ **Does not require** advance reservations
- ▷ **Serves late-shift workers** and those with unpredictable schedules
- ▷ **Generates robust data** and insights on trip behavior
- ▷ Assists with **providing paratransit services**
- ▷ Offers a **public, subsidized** form of rideshare services

Equity for Everyone, Everywhere

- ▷ **Reaches underserved communities** not served by fixed routes or unable to access a personal vehicle
- ▷ Provides more **responsive** service with shorter wait times and a higher **level of service**
- ▷ **Improves access** to essential services, healthcare, and employment opportunities, which improves quality of life
- ▷ Creates a system **responsive to evolving needs** and public feedback
- ▷ MEE NC service areas are **45% non-white with 20% living below the poverty line**, compared to North Carolina at 31% and 15% respectively
- ▷ 262 census block groups in participating communities have **poverty rates greater than 2x the statewide average** and 149 block groups have **people of color populations greater than 2x the statewide average**

MEE NC Participating Communities



Alamance County Transportation Authority
City of Sanford
City of Wilson
Kerr Area Regional Transit
McDowell County Transportation
Johnston County Area Transit
Randolph County

Rockingham
Salisbury Transit System
Tar River Transit
Wave Transit



MEE NC Benefits



Equity, Multimodal Options, and Quality of Life

Provides affordable, convenient, and expanded public transit service to vulnerable and transportation disadvantaged rural riders to improve access essential services and economic opportunities.



Innovation

Quickly creates a large-scale proof-of-concept across a variety of rural contexts to develop a culture of innovation and knowledge sharing among a network of peer transit agencies, and adds 5 connected and autonomous vehicles (CAVs) to the City of Wilson's fleet.



Climate Change, Resiliency, and the Environment

Encourages pooled transit trips to reduce emissions and adds 10 hybrid electric vehicles to the City of Wilson's fleet, thereby supporting the goals of North Carolina EO 246 to reduce emissions and increase electric vehicle (EV) adoption.



Economic Impacts, Freight Movement, and Job Creation

Strengthens rural economies by bolstering the connections between rural and urban areas, reducing wait times and improving travel time reliability, and addresses transportation challenges for the shift workers and students.



State of Good Repair

Modernizes public transportation by introducing Software as a Service (SaaS) and turnkey on-demand models, thereby extends useful life of transit agency vehicles and equipment.



Safety

Furthers NCDOT's Complete Streets Policy to create interdependent, multi-modal transportation networks that safely accommodate access and travel for all users.

Building on Existing Success

"**RIDE** is a great thing for Wilson. More convenient because you can get to more destinations than the city bus all around town. **I love it.**"

"The **service was as easy** as taking my own car really. It's always fun to share a ride with others and reduce my impact...If Micro extended to where I live, I would use it far more often."

"Microtransit is an **innovative model** to serve those in our community who may not live or work near a dedicated bus route."

Preferred Funding Strategy



Employment Impact

1,001 Job Years

Total Earnings

\$19.3 Million

Total Net Benefits

\$54.8 Million

Benefit-Cost Ratio

2.5

Readiness & Risk

NCDOT will leverage its extensive experience helping communities develop on-demand transit service and administering Federal grant programs to reduce risk and accelerate delivery of on-demand services across NC in calendar years **2024, 2025, and 2026.**

The **MEE NC** project aligns closely with the NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division's core goals to increase access, enhance quality of life, and ensure safety.

