

# PROJECT SNAPSHOT

Solving Access for NC 12 in Dare County (SAND) is seeking PROTECT funding to complete a Planning and Environmental Linkages study that includes comprehensive resiliency planning, alternatives development and evaluation, and robust public engagement. SAND will establish a solid foundation for future project development and construction, with the goal of streamlining subsequent environmental review, accelerating project delivery, and securing long-term resiliency for NC 12. This collaborative project will be spearheaded by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) with support from partners US Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service.



**Project Location:** An 11-mile section of NC 12 between Oregon Inlet and Rodanthe on Pea Island in Dare County, NC.



**Estimated Completion Date:** Quarter 4, calendar year 2026



**Project Budget:** \$1,865,000

Application Materials: <https://connect.ncdot.gov/resources/PROTECT2023-NC12/Pages/default.aspx>

## Merit Criteria Benefits



**Program Alignment:** Incorporates best available climate data and decision support tools, develops alternatives that incorporate nature-based solutions to support the optimal functioning of the Barrier Island ecosystem, and aligns with existing resilience and transportation plans for the region.



**Schedule + Budget:** Completes the activities described in the application in a feasible and reasonable manner, commensurate with the anticipated level of effort.



**Public Engagement, Partnerships, + Collaboration:** Proactively and meaningfully engages a broad range of partners, stakeholders, and members of the public, including federal, state, and local agencies, academia, community-based organizations, and advocacy groups to build a common framework for decision-making to ensure that diverse perspectives are considered, particularly those from disadvantaged communities.



**Innovation:** Leverages innovative partnerships, technologies, and techniques to ensure that the decision-making process is grounded in reliable climate data, expert knowledge, and industry best practices. Incorporates nature-based solutions where appropriate and feasible.

Jenni Koontz of Epic Shutter Photography

*"SAND demonstrates NCDOT's commitment to deliver resilient, long-term solutions for NC 12 on the Outer Banks through collaborative partnerships and active public engagement."*

--J. Eric Boyette,  
NCDOT Secretary



## Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool Data for Study Area

98<sup>th</sup>  
Percentile

Expected Building Loss Rate

98<sup>th</sup>  
Percentile

Expected Population Loss Rate

98<sup>th</sup>  
Percentile

Projected Flood Risk

76<sup>th</sup>  
Percentile

Low-Income Households

## Transportation Disadvantaged Populations Served

Zero-Vehicle Households

12% Study Area / 6% State Average

Persons with Disabilities

28% Study Area / 13% State Average

Persons > 65 Years Old

30% Study Area / 16% State Average

## FHWA Priority Considerations

The Project demonstrates exceptional benefits in public engagement, partnerships, and collaboration by taking a comprehensive and inclusive approach to create a shared vision for NC 12 that considers the needs and aspirations of all. With the award of PROTECT funding, NCDOT will be able to take the next step for the long-term resilience of this important corridor.