

GREAT-NC OVERVIEW

FY 2023 USDOT Reconnecting Communities + Neighborhoods Grant Summary

Growing Rural Equity and Access to Transportation in North Carolina (GREAT-NC, or “the Program”) will create a construction-ready pipeline of active transportation facilities and build local capacity for project delivery to address the persistent regional mobility challenge of safe and equitable bicycle and pedestrian access to daily destinations for economically disadvantaged populations in rural North Carolina (NC).



Schedule:

Design Start: Q3 2024

Construction Start: Q4 2026



Funding Amount Requested:

\$67.7 million



Phases: Capacity Building (\$1.38M), Design (\$44.61M), Public Engagement (\$480K), Data Collection/Reporting (\$200K), Construction (\$21.03M)



Miles: Design: 147 miles

Construction: Up to 7.5 miles

PARTNERSHIPS



“GREAT-NC has broad support from participating communities, stakeholders, and other partners across the state. The Program builds on the statewide Great Trails State (GTS) Plan and the expansive GTS Coalition network to unlock access to safe walking and biking facilities for millions of rural North Carolinians.”

~Iona Thomas, Co-Founder of GTS Coalition

REGIONAL CHALLENGES + SOLUTIONS



Photo Courtesy of News + Observer

- 1 NC’s rural, disadvantaged communities have limited capacity and resources to deliver Federally-funded projects (see **Regional Context**).
GREAT-NC manages project delivery as a pilot for future NCDOT-delivered multimodal projects and builds capacity through workforce development and GTS Coalition-led activities, to create a network of educated and well-prepared rural communities.
- 2 NC’s rural road system often lacks biking and walking facilities resulting in unsafe conditions and a disproportionate (44%) risk of fatalities and serious injuries for vulnerable road users (see **Access**).
GREAT-NC utilizes a robust safety toolbox to design protected facilities and crossings that reduce risk and protect vulnerable road users.
- 3 NC General Statute prohibits state expenditures on independent bicycle and pedestrian facilities (see **Regional Context**).
GREAT-NC overcomes funding barriers to advance NC’s pipeline of active transportation projects and transform rural corridors into accessible and connected facilities in the communities with the greatest need.
- 4 The average percentage of households in the Program’s study area that lack access to vehicles exceeds the state’s average, limiting connectivity to daily destinations for disadvantaged populations (see **Equity + Environmental Justice**).
GREAT-NC reconnects communities and provides safe, non-motorized, and equitable access to healthcare, schools, and employment to create opportunities for all.

GREAT-NC is a powerful statewide partnership for transformation that aligns closely with NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division’s (IMD’s) core goals to increase access, enhance quality of life, ensure safety, and achieve its long-term vision to create a robust bicycle and pedestrian network.

GREAT-NC PARTICIPATING COMMUNITIES

1. Marion | 2. Glenwood + Union Mills | 3. Lawndale | 4. West Jefferson | 5. Lumberton
 6. Oxford + Butner | 7. Smithfield + Benson | 8. Warrenton, Macon, + Norlina | 9. Southport + Supply
 10. Navassa, Belville, + Old Town | 11. Greenville + Pactolus | 12. Washington + Chocowinity

147 Miles of Dividing +
Burdening Facilities

50 Economically
Disadvantaged
Areas Served



With this investment, USDOT will advance 147 miles of bicycle and pedestrian facilities in NC through design and/or construction, expand capacity of local agencies to deliver infrastructure projects, and improve access to opportunities and services for rural disadvantaged populations.

PROJECT BENEFITS



Equity + Environmental Justice: Addresses systemic negative impacts of historic NC highway design policies, which favored vehicle speed over safe, multimodal connections.



Equitable Development: Incorporates creative placemaking that honors local culture and history and integrates natural elements that reflect the local context of each project.



Access: Creates safe, context-sensitive, and affordable mobility options to improve non-motorized access to daily destinations.



Climate + Environment: Reduces greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through new active transportation facilities and improves resilience to address disproportionate negative environmental impacts of transportation on disadvantaged communities.



Facility Suitability: Removes barriers to access, mobility, and economic development and addresses vulnerabilities to reconnect the places residents live, work, and play in rural, disadvantaged communities.



Workforce Development + Economic Opportunity: Engages Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) in the Program's design and construction activities, and provides training and supportive services to youth and adult workers in GREAT-NC communities.



Community Engagement + Community-based Stewardship, Management + Partnerships: Partners with the GTS Coalition to implement a community-centered approach that engages diverse populations.

PROJECT READINESS: ENVIRONMENTAL RISK

NCDOT will leverage its extensive experience helping communities deliver multimodal projects and administering Federal grant programs to reduce risk and accelerate implementation of GREAT-NC.



Projects developed through statewide + community planning



Projects follow NCDOT right of way (ROW) with minimal acquisition + environmental impacts expected



Feasibility studies for all projects complete or underway

Application + Supplemental Materials:

<https://connect.ncdot.gov/resources/RCN2023-IMD/Pages/default.aspx>