



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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GOVERNOR

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August 20, 2026

AGC/NCDOT Roadway Subcommittee Meeting Minutes – August 20, 2026

The meeting was held in the Riverwood Conference Room at NCDOT Century Center on August 20, 2026, at 10:00 am. Microsoft Teams was available for virtual attendance. The following were discussed:

NCDOT Personnel Update (NCDOT)

The Department provided the following personnel updates to the subcommittee regarding recently filled positions.

- Director of Field Support – Troy B. Brooks, PE
- State Construction Engineer – Brian C. Skeens, PE
- State Proposals and Specifications Engineer – Ken Kenneedy, PE
- Division 5 Division Construction Engineer – Chad D. Hinnant
- Division 3 Assistant Division Construction Engineer – Benjamin T. Hughes, PE

The Assistant State Construction Engineer – Western Region (Divisions 7, 9-14) previously held by Brian C. Skeens, PE is currently vacant and the Department is working to fill this position.

Division Let Limit Increase (NCDOT)

A memorandum from the Chief Engineer was distributed to Division Engineers on July 28, 2026 which provided an increase in Division letting authority for eligible bridge replacement projects. Divisions may now advertise and award eligible bridge replacement projects with an estimated construction cost of up to \$10 million. The previous threshold was \$5 million and was last updated in 2016. The increased threshold is limited to Division managed primary and secondary route bridge replacement projects being funded through the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) or Highway Fund Bridge Program. The increased threshold does not apply to bridge replacement projects on Interstate routes. All other project types will continue to use the existing Division letting authority of \$5 million. The plans and proposals for eligible projects that exceed \$5 million will be reviewed by the Contract Standards and Development Unit and Structures Management Unit prior to their advertisement. This will be done to ensure that consistent bidding documents, plans and proposals are provided across Divisions. Training sessions are planned to be held with Divisions a couple of times a year. The Department will be

monitoring feedback from contractors on the newly eligible projects and welcomes any input from contractors. Divisions 4, 11 and 13 have each moved one project from the Central Letting List to Division Letting Lists due to the increased threshold. The Department anticipates that the increased threshold could be expanded to other project types in the future. Mr. Victor Barbour asked if contractors are seeing projects that include significant work outside of a bridge replacement to make AGC and Department aware.

Electronic Certified Payroll Submittal (NCDOT)

Ms. Michelle Gaddy provided the subcommittee with the status of electronic certified payroll submittal implementation. The Department expects that there will be a pilot project requiring electronic submittal of certified payrolls in late 2026 or early 2027. There will be three methods to submit electronic certified payroll: XML file from approved third-party system, Department-provided spreadsheet or direct manual entry into the CRL module. Currently, there are seven contractors that are in the testing phase. Mr. Victor Barbour will be sending out the special provision for electronic certified payroll submittal to industry for comments. Industry asked if prime contractors would receive an automatic notification if a subcontractor's payroll was rejected. Ms. Michelle Gaddy advised that the notification process is currently being developed. The Department recommends that contractors reach out to payroll companies in advance of implementation to make the process smoother. It was noted that contractors will need to log in to NCID every 90 days and change the password to prevent being locked out. If pilot testing goes well, the Department expects that the electronic certified payroll submittal special provision will start being included in contracts beginning in 2027. Weekly Teams meetings will be held on Friday mornings to allow contractors ask questions regarding the submittal of electronic certified payrolls.

FHWA 1273 Update (AGC)

AGC inquired if FHWA 1273 still needs to be incorporated into subcontracts. The Department confirmed that it does and this will need to continue going forward.

DBE Update (AGC)

The Department provided an update on the DBE Program. Currently the program is still paused, including setting goals. There is no set date for when the program is to resume. EOC is continuing to reevaluate firms, with out-of-state firms being reevaluated by their home state. During the reevaluation process, the Department is working to remove listed firms that are no longer in business. Mr. Victor Barbour mentioned that is good practice for prime contractors to continue tracking DBE usage because this could lead to goals potentially being eliminated in the future.

Pre-Auger of Wick Drains (AGC)

Industry asked if the Department has ever considered adding a line item specifically for pre-augering of wick drains. Currently pre-augering of wick drains is incidental to the wick drains line item and no separate payment is made. Pre-augering and installation of wick drains do require two separate pieces of equipment for each process. The Department is looking at providing additional geotechnical information at letting rather than creating an

additional line item. Industry agreed that more geotechnical information would help during bidding and this would be a good place to start.

Section 1630 vs Construction Manual – Payment Discrepancy (AGC)

Industry requested an update on the discrepancy between Standard Specifications Section 1630 and Construction Manual Section 1630 on how the filling of silt detention devices is compensated. The Department stated that the Construction Manual will be revised to better align with the Standard Specifications. The filling of silt detention devices will be compensated as borrow excavation or unclassified excavation, depending on the source. However, if the silt detention device are filled with material originating from and compensated as silt excavation, then no additional payment will be made. Industry asked how compensation is made for removal of erosion control devices that were previously installed on project under another contract. On projects of this nature, the Department will work to have this incorporated into the contract.

Railroad Permit Fees and Flagging Update (AGC)

Currently the Construction Unit is working on revising the special provisions for railroad permits fees and flagging. Language is being added to prevent situations where the Department would be compensating for railroad flaggers that aren't being utilized for extended periods of time. The Department requests that construction work within railroad right-of-way be consolidated as much as reasonably possible to prevent the intermittent need for railroad flagging. The Department recognizes Industry's concern about the difficulty of obtaining a railroad flagger and understands there may be occurrences where a railroad flagger is not used but retained for flagging needs in the short-term future. It was noted that CSX does not utilize any third parties for permitting or flagging as this is handled in-house.

BidX (AGC)

Industry asked if the web version of BidX could be set up where a price could be locked after it is entered to prevent being inadvertently changed. Industry also noticed that if two users were working on a bid at the same time, one user may not see an entry that was put in by another user. This can lead to one user entering information in a field that has already been completed. The Department is going to check on these concerns with BidX and see if improvements can be made.

Undercut (NCDOT)

With the Department moving towards digital delivery, the Department is considering no longer showing undercut or shallow undercut on the cross-sections or profiles. Instead, undercut and shallow undercut will be shown in the 2-series sheets in a tabular format. Also, instead of showing the X1-A sheet in the cross-section plan set, this information will be in an Excel spreadsheet. This spreadsheet will be located in the supplemental section of the letting directory. The Department shared two details, one for embankment stability undercut and one for subgrade stability undercut. These two details will be shared with AGC for Industry input. These changes are intended to improve and simplify these areas for designers as well as contractors.

Fine Grading (AGC)

Currently the Manual for Construction Layout requires staking every 500' when fine grading operations are being performed. Industry feels that the staking is not being utilized with the current technology available. The Department is in the process of updating the Manual for Construction Layout and will investigate this topic further.

Wasting Material in NCDOT Right-Of-Way (AGC)

Industry requested that proposals clearly state whether material may or may not be wasted within the right-of-way. It was determined that this should be decided during the Combined Field Inspection. The Department is going to investigate this topic further.

Subsurface Drain (AGC)

Industry noted that subsurface drain is frequently included as a line item in contracts but is rarely used. The Department asked AGC to provide a list of line items where this commonly occurs. It was noted that it may be more effective to address infrequently used line items through supplemental agreements rather than including these line items as contingencies in contracts. Once the list of line items is provided by AGC, the Department will investigate them.

AGC/NUCA/NCDOL Event (AGC)

Mr. Victor Barbour announced that AGC/NUCA/NCDOL will be hosting an event at a job site in Durham on September 21, 2026. This event will be focused on safety including struck-by incidents, heat stress and work zone hazards. Mr. Victor Barbour is going to provide the Department with an event flyer and requested that the Department participate in the event. AGC members will be receiving flyers and emails detailing the event. John Deere, CAT and Liebherr will have equipment demonstrations at the event. There will be no cost to attend the event.

2026 Meeting Dates

October 15

December 17