

Supplemental Information for Special Events

February 5, 2014
(updated 9/26/23)

General:

The Department of Transportation is to “develop and maintain a statewide system of roads, highways, and other transportation systems commensurate with the needs of the State as a whole” ([§136-44.1](#)). Therefore, special events are defined as anything that uses the highway system for the benefit or pleasure of individuals, groups, or organizations and includes, but is not limited to, parades, races (bicycle, foot, skate, skateboard, etc.), marathons, charity walks, fundraisers, and festivals. Special events are not prohibited, but must be reviewed by the Department prior to commencement to ascertain the impact on the safety and mobility of all road users.

The special event must be reviewed by the [local Highway Division](#), and all approvals shall be in writing. Additional support documentation including, but not limited to, maps, local government support, law enforcement support, and traffic control information may also be required. Contact your [local Highway Division office](#) for an explanation of any additional documentation that may be needed.

Rules and Guidelines:

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is responsible for the safe and efficient use of the State Highway System ([§136-18](#)). This request process is necessary to ensure the safety of event staff, participants, spectators, and non-event related State Highway System users, unreasonable interference with traffic flows, and damage or abuse of the State Highway System infrastructure.

Bicycle races may be held on the State Highway System both inside and outside of the corporate limits of municipalities, but must have prior approval and provide for the safety and convenience of all road users ([§20-171.2](#)).

Parades are not allowed on the State Highway System outside the corporate limits of municipalities ([19A NCAC 02E.0413](#)).

Pedestrians and bicyclists have the right to use the State Highway System provided they follow all appropriate laws, rules, and ordinances. However, the Division Engineer(s) having jurisdiction over the portion of the State Highway System that the event route(s) will follow shall have final approval of any temporary lane and/or road closures, in accordance with the [April 12, 1985, resolution by the Board of Transportation](#).