

How NCDOT Staff Can Request a Photo Mission

December 9, 2020

What is a Photo Mission?

A **Photo Mission** is the name given to the process by which the NCDOT Photogrammetry Unit acquires aerial photography with a large format metric camera mounted on a manned aircraft or a small format non-metric camera mounted on an unmanned aircraft, commonly called a drone. This process consists of flight lines called strips that are flown in a pattern that allows for full photo coverage of a specific area at preselected flying heights to allow for optimal ground sample distance. The aerial photographs can then be processed to generate geospatial information products used for transportation planning, design, and construction.

Who can request a photo mission?

Due to the cost associated with acquiring aerial photography, the NCDOT Photogrammetry Unit can only fly photo missions for fully funded or “to be” funded transportation projects. Requests for these missions can be made by any NCDOT staff member, however NCDOT Project Managers, Resident or District Engineers, and Division Engineers make the majority of requests for photo missions. The Photogrammetry Unit cannot fly photo missions for any private organization or the general public.

What is needed before requesting a photo mission?

When making a request for a photo mission, the Photogrammetry Unit requires that the submitter include mapping/survey limits as a closed polygon in a MicroStation design file (.dgn) format whenever possible. The following information should also be submitted:

- TIP #
- Requestor Name
- Date Needed
- WBS
- Mapping Product Type
- Mapping Scale (1" = 400' to 20')
- Description
- County
- Special Notes/Link to Mapping/Survey Limits

Who to contact to request a photo mission?

Once an NCDOT Project Manager, Resident, District Engineer, or Division Engineer has determined that aerial photography is required to complete a project, they should contact Richard G. Greene at rggreene@ncdot.gov, Greg Franson at gfranson@ncdot.gov, or Donald Early at dearly@ncdot.gov.