



NC Metro Mayors Coalition Annual Member Meeting

December 5-6, 2019

Greensboro, NC



Meeting and report
supported by:



Meeting supported by:



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Meeting Summary

Greensboro Mayor Nancy Vaughn and current Chair of the Coalition welcomed the Metro Mayors Coalition (MMC) to Greensboro and reviewed the agenda. Members, including newly elected Mayors, were introduced. The Mayors shared a brief highlight of activities in their community during the “Mayors Minute.”

Executive Director Beau Mills shared updates on the activities of MMC over the past year. The work is consistent with the *value proposition* that was developed and approved in July 2018.

North Carolina Metropolitan MAYORS COALITION

The Coalition is a non-partisan, mayor-driven organization that promotes strategies to advance urban centers.

Value Proposition

▶ We provide an unwavering focus on metropolitan North Carolina.

OUR UNIQUE VALUE:

- Our Unique Why**
 - Metropolitan NC is driving the economic success of the entire state – urban and rural
 - NC cities have unique needs that are not being adequately addressed
 - Regional coordination is essential to our state's success
- Our Unique How**
 - Our Mayors are uniquely recognized as advocates for urban interests
 - We build relationships amongst leaders of member cities to work for common interests
 - We identify the pressing needs in metropolitan areas to policy makers
 - We are nimble and able to act quickly to emerging issues
 - We focus on a few strategic issues
- Our Unique What**
 - We are laser focused on promoting the key role cities play in NC's economy
 - We share best practices
 - We advocate for larger and mid-sized cities
 - We communicate with our membership about issues of importance to cities
 - We create a unique, small forum for larger city mayors and staff to share and strategize

OUR PARTNERS:

- We Partner With:**
 - The NC League of Municipalities
 - Organizations that align with the interests of the Coalition
- Our Partners Provide:**
 - Advocacy for shared interests
 - Research
 - External communications

Our Members are NC's Larger Cities

We are a diverse group of large and mid-sized cities with populations of 25,000 and above that share common needs and interests. Despite our differences in size, we are bound together by our shared interests and recognize we are stronger when we work together.

Our Core Shared Interests

- Transportation and infrastructure
- Community and economic development
- Public safety
- Local control, flexibility and revenues

Highlights of MMC's 2019 highest priority work include:

- The relationship with NCLM: signed a basic “affiliate” contract and moving forward with a full-service contract – expect this to be completed in December/January timeframe with Executive committee leading negotiations with NCLM; we had extraordinary and effective coordination with NCLM’s advocacy team this Legislative session
- Transportation and infrastructure:
 - MMC highest priority - Restored NCDOT SMAP funding for transit (attached estimated increase)
 - NC FIRST Commission – lobbied for Mayor of Raleigh appointed as Co-Chair ([NC FIRST](#))

- Disrupters of Future of Transportation - finance presentations around the state
- Director is a member of STI Prioritization Workgroup, coordinating with MPO leaders
- Director is a member of NCDOT Turnpike Authority Policy Workgroup
- Metro Mayors is hosting, for the second year, a special **MMC membership ONLY LUNCHEON** during the NC Transportation Summit (register here for [NC Transportation Summit](#) - January 8-9) being held at the Raleigh Convention Center.
- Community and economic development
 - Second highest MMC Legislative priority – NCGA extended the Historic Preservation Tax Credits
 - No change to economic development tier system
- Public Safety
- Local control, flexibility and revenues
 - Concern over possible sales tax redistribution by NCGA – fortunately no movement
 - Fire Fighters special separation allowance – major cost to cities averted for now
 - Airbnb/short term rental pre-emption of local authority – averted for now
- Affordable housing - Established MMC initiative and partnership on a growing high priority issue for our member cities – and received financial support from Local Government Credit Union to expand our collaboration.

Environmental Defense Fund – Cities Initiative on Climate Change

Zach Ambrose shared the work of the Cities Initiative. EDF's work is data driven and believes in the power of collaboration. They saw a critical mass of local governments that want to focus on greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction in North Carolina, but found a gap – there are resources around best practices and resources at the national level, but not a group that was looking at policy and regulatory issues to address systemic problems at the state level. The Cities Initiative has identified **12 consensus action items** that would help reduce GHG emissions

- Get additional locally-controlled revenue for transportation
- Adjust State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) allocations
- Incorporate GHG scoring for state funded projects
- Develop a voluntary carbon credit tracking system
- Aggregate data access at a safe level to allow for program prioritization
- Create a utility billing platform that helps cities and customers understand energy use
- Allow for new renewable energy procurement options
- Increase speed and transparency of the interconnection process
- Address barriers to Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) in North Carolina
- Develop a local government supported green energy bank
- Improve energy impact of building codes
- Change makeup of the NC Building Code Council

Phase 2 of the Initiative is underway, with a focus on developing implementation goals and strategies for the consensus action items to address statewide barriers to reducing GHG emissions. The following local governments are participating in Phase 2. (**MMC members noted** - additional government are invited to join.)

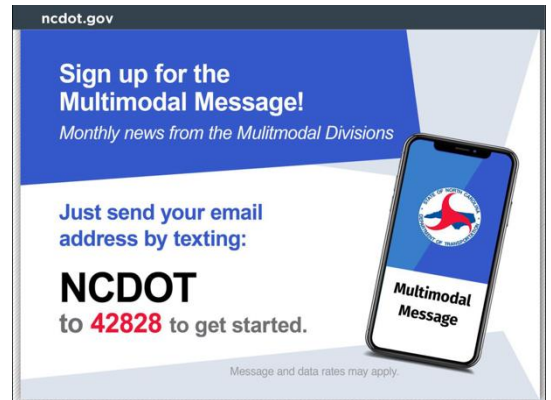
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| ● Asheville | ● Buncombe County | ● Carrboro |
| ● Boone | ● Canton | ● Cary |

- **Chapel Hill**
- **Charlotte**
- **Durham**
- Durham County
- **Greensboro**
- High Country COG
- Highlands
- Hillsborough
- **Kannapolis**
- LRCOG
- Orange County
- **Raleigh**
- TJCOG
- **Wilmington**
- **Winston Salem**

NC DOT General Multi-Modal Update and Complete Streets Policy

Julie White, NCDOT Deputy Secretary for Multi-Modal presented information on the exciting and innovative efforts NCDOT is pursuing. Some efforts she highlighted include:

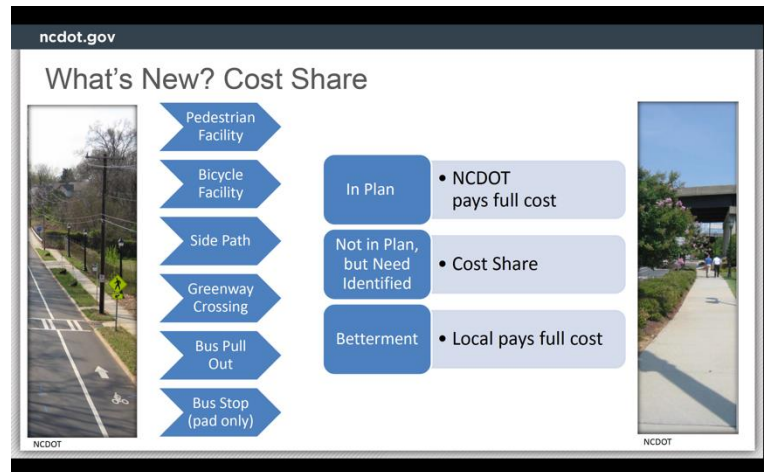
- Rail is helping to connect our communities – NCDOT is building a new multimodal station in downtown Charlotte
- NCDOT Rail is working to integrate more with the Southeast rail corridor
- Ferry division is seeing success – it is transit on water
- Aviation division is cutting edge – experimenting with drone and unmanned traffic management systems.
- We hope to have demonstrations of the new technology at Secretary’s Transportation Summit
- NCDOT has launched a new rails to trails initiative as part of the STI
- There is a goal for a fully electrified fleet
- Future of Transit: Connected Autonomous Shuttles Supporting Innovation (CASSI) – will do a fixed route trial at NC State; will then open it up for communities to try it locally – where a small shuttle would work
- Thank MMC for its advocacy on SMAP funding!



Johanna Blackburn, NCDOT Director of the Integrated Mobility Division provided an update on NCDOT’s work on **Complete Streets**.

- The policy was adopted by BOT in 2019; Implementation Guidance released August 2019 - [NC Complete Streets](#)
- If each North Carolinian walked or biked 1 mile/week instead of driving it would eliminate 218,000 Tons of CO2 from the air every year
- The landscape of mobility is changing. We need to be prepared for the whole context from walking to bikes, to transit to cars and trucks. Need to readjust how we make investments in transportation – and new policy and guidelines are a valuable tool to help respond to the changes
- We are adding almost 2 million more people to our state. We need to figure out where they will go and how they will get around
- NCDOT has resources available for local governments to support work in complete streets:
 - Action Plan
 - Complete Streets Policy
 - Implementation Guide
 - FAQs

- NCDOT is improving coordination between their Operations Program Management Unit and Integrated Mobility Division. They are also sending resurfacing lists to local governments. This will allow for better delivery of complete streets in communities.
- NCDOT will now consider pedestrian facility, bicycle facility, side path, greenway crossing, bus pull outs, bus stop plan ... if they are in the plan. **Cities need to have COMPLETE STREETS in their project plans!** If it is in the early planning, NCDOT may share in the cost. If it is a “betterment” – enhanced aesthetics or lighting not included in the early planning – locals pay. This is a huge financial opportunity that will benefit our communities that desire for more integrated and multi-modal transportation and can even help improve safety on our roads.



Josh Stein, Attorney General

North Carolina Attorney General Josh Stein spoke about the activities his team is undertaking:

- NC has more untested rape test kits than anywhere else in the country. DOJ is developing a plan to rectify that failure. Survivor Act passed this fall to eliminate the backlog and make sure it never happens again. NC is solving old cases, but we have to test the kits. Mayors are urged to check in with police chiefs to see where you are in the process so we can bring justice to victims and put dangerous people behind bars
- Fighting opioids has been another major emphasis. Our imperative is to have more success stories in fighting opioids: prevention, treatment/recovery; enforcement; litigation. We share best practices for policy makers in prevention. Expanding Medicaid would be the single most effective step in solving the opioid epidemic. DOJ is providing training to law enforcement to identify where opioids are being abused. We need new approaches – we cannot arrest ourselves out of this crisis. NC is leading a national investigation into drug manufacturers and working on settlement – which needs to go into abatement of the problem.
- Other priorities include: Pre-trial release; Safe kids; RoboCall Fraud; Affordable Care Act; Tax Cheats; Medicaid Fraud; Environmental protection

PTI, The Aerospace Industry and Greensboro Tour

The City of Greensboro hosted a tour of exciting work that is going on in the region.

- We were able to ride on one of the GTA electric buses
- PTI airport director Kevin Baker showed us the private sector investment at the airport and the focus on the aerospace industry
- We visited HondaJet to see the executive jets being manufactured at PTI
- Secretary of Commerce Tony Copeland shared how NC has the talent and preparation to attract jobs to the state. Economic growth in urban areas supports all 100 counties in the state
- NCDOT Board Chair Mike Fox shared collaborative efforts to ready the state’s transportation infrastructure for businesses moving to the area

- We were able to visit a bridge made for the largest airplanes to cross the interstate to enable the airport's expansion in the future
- We passed by yet-to-be-completed Steve Tanger Center for Performing Arts in downtown Greensboro, along with the renovated multi-modal station and downtown parks.



Tom Ross

Tom Ross, President of the Volcker Alliance, the former President of the University of North Carolina System and before that Davidson College, delivered an address emphasizing how we rely on government; and government makes our lives work. Through his efforts and research at the [Volcker Alliance](#) (founded in the name of former Federal Reserve Chair Paul Volcker), President Ross sees that young people are not entering the public workforce. It is imperative that we recruit new talent; nurture and develop current talent and change the narrative about how important and impactful government is. We should consider more internships, fellowships, public service loan forgiveness, and improving marketing, recruiting, and job descriptions.

The task is daunting, but with concerted effort we can attract the best and the brightest to the public sector. It is a critical challenge that needs a commitment to action.

We don't talk about how well government works often enough. We need to tell our story, provide good service to survive.

2020 Election Outlook

Anna Gravely, President of NC Free Enterprise Foundation shared information about the upcoming 2020 elections. She discussed how there is increased outside spending and federal official endorsements in NC congressional races, with more of it benefitting Republicans. Jobs and the economy continue to be priority topics. Water and sewer are interestingly rising up as top issues.

Redistricting fatigue is becoming evident, with more incumbents retiring, confusion over the districts, and difficulty for incumbents to have full time jobs at the same time. This will be the third straight election with different maps. Six NC house districts are change from strong (republican/democrat) to competitive and two senate districts are changing from strong (republican/democrat) to competitive. There will be

more suburban battlegrounds. www.NCFree.org has a dashboard that shows the districts and comparisons, as well as business rating on legislators.

Lt. Governor Dan Forest

Lt. Governor Dan Forest, son of a former Mayor of Charlotte Sue Myrick, discussed the importance of good governance and working across the aisle. As the son of a Mayor, he thanked all the Mayors for their dedication to their communities.

The challenges that face the state at a macro level face our cities at a micro level as well: putting more people to work, more people migrating to our state, leads to how we manage our infrastructure to support the growth. He sees the opportunity in our cities and towns – they have good bones. What is the catalyst to see the growth explosion? Are we going to be prepared for it? What are our opportunities? How do work together as city leaders and state leaders for what is best for the people of our state?

As leaders our responsibility is to help unify our communities and our state. We need to figure out how to work together across the board. We should all run on a vision of what is best for the people of North Carolina.

MMC Elections of new officers

Mayor Manheimer presented the proposed slate of new officers on behalf of the nominating committee. Mayor Lyles moved adoption of the slate, Mayor Hinnant seconded the motion. The new officer slate was passed unanimously. The officers are:

- Chair: Mayor Nancy Vaughn
- Vice Chair: Mayor Chuck Allen
- Treasurer: Mayor Pam Hemminger
- Immediate Past Chair: Mayor Esther Manheimer
- At-large: Mayor Costi Kutteh
- At-large: Mayor Lydia Lavelle
- At-large: Mayor Allen Joines
- At-large: Mayor Bill Dusch
- At-large: Mayor Bill Saffo

MMC Budget

Treasurer Hemminger presented the proposed budget. The proposal continues to reduce costs for our contract lobbying and reduced expenses in most categories. As we move forward with negotiations with NCLM, we do not know the impact on the budget, but it is possible that we may have an opportunity to reduce dues over time. Officers would review any proposed full-service contract with NCLM. We would have a telephonic full board meeting to approve or reject the proposed contract.

Mayor Schewel moved approval of the budget; Mayor Kutteh seconded. The budget received unanimous approval.

Legislative discussion

The team from Kilpatrick Townsend, Ches McDowell, Amanda Donovan, Nelson Freeman and Hampton Billips shared highlights from the 2019 legislative session. The legislative team view the session as a “win”

because “we won some things and did not get our butts kicked on anything.” Highlights of the wins and neutral outcomes include:

Wins

- HB 100 – DOT budget passed: full restoration of SMAP transit funding; a Powell Bill increase beginning in 2021 for many cities; and, a large funding increase for commercial service airports
- SB 68 – Relocation of Water/Sewer Line Costs passed – lowers municipality cost on transportation projects for cities below 100,000 population
- HB 278 Firefighters Special Separation Allowance – a financially burdensome bill did not pass
- HB 399 – Historic Preservation Tax Credit extension passed (was set to expire in January 2020)
- Short term rentals (Airbnb) - no bill introduced, stopped a serious effort to bring legislation forward to pre-empt local authority
- SB 650 – Sales Tax Redistribution – introduced, but no hearing or consideration - not passed
- SB 367 Clarify Property Owners Rights – pre-empt local tree ordinance authority - not passed

Neutral

- HB 370 Require Sheriff Cooperation with ICE - vetoed
- SB 290 ABC Regulatory Reform Bill – a modest bill passed
- SB 578 Expand Film Grants – vetoed
- HB 645 Revisions to Outdoor advertising laws (billboards) - vetoed

Some items that are likely to come up in the 2020 election include:

- Short Term Rental/Airbnb will come back. If our cities are meeting with Airbnb to develop rules, we need to document the meetings – it will help with our discussions with the legislature. Let us know what you are doing.
- There *may* be legislation proposed to not allow municipalities to hire contract lobbyists
- Sales tax redistribution *may* be a major issue again next year



NC Metropolitan Mayors Coalition
 NC DOT - Public Transit Support for Bus Service
 FY 2020 State Maintenance Assistance Program

SYSTEM NAME	TOTAL ALLOCATION FY 2019	TOTAL ALLOCATION <i>Estimated</i> FY 2020	Est. INCREASE FOR FY20 DISBURSEMENT
AppalCART	\$769,426	\$911,835	\$142,409
Asheville	\$851,492	\$1,115,417	\$263,925
Burlington	\$119,285	\$133,899	\$14,614
Chapel Hill	\$2,253,325	\$2,939,769	\$686,444
Charlotte	\$7,883,581	\$11,063,205	\$3,179,624
Concord	\$215,001	\$297,265	\$82,264
Fayetteville	\$558,194	\$771,629	\$213,435
Gastonia	\$173,623	\$232,509	\$58,886
Go Cary	\$156,532	\$217,487	\$60,955
Go Durham	\$2,239,457	\$2,736,515	\$497,058
Go Raleigh	\$1,997,112	\$2,744,469	\$747,357
Go Triangle	\$1,848,812	\$2,557,927	\$709,115
Goldsboro	\$147,174	\$192,970	\$45,796
Greensboro	\$1,379,700	\$1,877,713	\$498,013
Greenville	\$199,799	\$292,055	\$92,256
Henderson County	\$124,397	\$166,689	\$42,292
Hickory (WPRTA)	\$125,555	\$155,365	\$29,810
High Point	\$341,943	\$452,925	\$110,982
Jacksonville	\$132,391	\$176,435	\$44,044
PART	\$516,975	\$765,242	\$248,267
Rocky Mount / Tar River	\$165,854	\$234,676	\$68,822
Salisbury	\$158,857	\$189,253	\$30,396
Wilmington / Cape Fear	\$534,220	\$704,643	\$170,423
Wilson	\$123,284	\$173,628	\$50,344
Winston-Salem	\$955,646	\$1,425,037	\$469,391
Total	\$23,971,635	\$32,528,557	\$8,556,922