

# In The Air

An NCDOT Division of Aviation Newsletter

**DIVISION OF AVIATION**

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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## Aviation News WALLS NAMED DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR TRANSIT

Former Division of Aviation Director Richard Walls was named the NCDOT Deputy Secretary for Transit on Feb. 21. Walls will oversee the aviation division, as well as the ferry, rail, bicycle and pedestrian, and public transportation divisions. Deputy Director of Airports Bobby Walston and Walls will oversee the division until a director is named.

### **NCDOT**

**Division of Aviation**  
1050 Meridian Drive  
Raleigh-Durham  
International Airport  
[www.ncdot.gov/aviation](http://www.ncdot.gov/aviation)

### **MAIL ADDRESS:**

1560 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1560

(919) 814-0550



## **AIRPORTS WILL COMPETE AGAINST OTHER TRANSPORTATION MODES FOR PROJECTS UNDER NEW STRATEGIC MOBILITY FORMULA**

On April 18, Governor Pat McCrory introduced a new proposal for funding transportation projects to accelerate North Carolina's infrastructure investments and encourage greater economic growth. The strategic mobility formula would allow the N.C. Department of Transportation to use existing funds more efficiently, significantly increasing the number of projects to better connect economic regions and create more jobs.

"We need a strategic way to connect all North Carolinians to greater opportunities in a way that gives us the most bang for our limited dollars," Governor McCrory said. "We want to ensure that all of our people have access to jobs, quality education, health care and recreation."

NCDOT estimates the strategic mobility formula will fund at least 260 projects and create more than 240,000 jobs over the next 10 years. The formula is data driven, incorporates more local feedback and allows all modes of transportation — including aviation — to compete for funding.

The new strategic mobility formula takes a tiered approach that aligns available funding with the state's greatest transportation priorities. Under the new formula, 40 percent of funding over the next 10 years is allocated to the statewide level, with an additional 40 percent allocated to the regional level and the remaining 20 percent allocated to the division level.

While the legislation is moving through the General Assembly, general aviation airports will need to compete in the division tier against all projects regardless of mode. The funded projects will be based on a weighed scale of 50% data driven via the Division of Aviation project prioritization, 25% from the local DOT division engineer and 25% from the local Metropolitan Planning Organizations/Rural Planning Organizations.

"As the division engineers and MPO's/RPO's now have an increased stakeholder participation in the process, it will be critical for the airports to begin communicating the benefits it provides to the community and the importance of future projects on their TIP," said Deputy Secretary for Transit Richard Walls.

Transportation Secretary Tony Tata said, "With our population growing rapidly and transportation revenues continuing to decline, we have to be efficient and strategic in the way we fund, distribute and prioritize projects that are aligned with commerce. The strategic mobility formula increases our ability to have the highest impact and address the greatest needs."

NCDOT is working closely with the Department of Commerce to invest in infrastructure that will help attract, retain and grow business in North Carolina.

**Aviation News**

**SANFORD FAMILY DAY CANCELLED**

With runway construction scheduled late this summer into early fall, the Raleigh Executive Jetport at Sanford-Lee County Family Day will not be held this October.

The 6,500-foot runway is being repaved and resurfaced as part of an improvement plan that also includes the installation of upgraded, energy-efficient lighting. While engineers expect the paving to be completed by September, it will take time for the airport to wrap-up the overall project and get the grounds ready to host large-scale events.

Also, Greg Hudson has been named interim jetport manager, succeeding Brad Womble, who resigned in March after his family decided to relocate. Hudson spent 17 years managing the corporate flight department for a large, international company and two decades before that serving as pilot for a passenger airline.



**SECRETARY TATA SPEAKS ABOUT HIS VISION FOR AVIATION DURING DIVISION VISIT ON JANUARY 29**

New N.C. Department of Transportation Secretary Anthony Tata paid a visit to the Division of Aviation on January 29. Secretary Tata spoke to employees about his background in the military and public service (his mother was a long-time educator, his father a long-time state of Virginia legislator) and his vision of how aviation fits into the state's transportation infrastructure.



Left: Secretary Tata speaks to the Division. Below left: Secretary Tata talks to airport inspector Jimmy Capps about the runway at Manteo Airport. Below: Secretary Tata shakes hands with Richard Walls.





**Aviation News**

**LANIER NAMED PROJECT MANAGER**

Philip Lanier was promoted to NCDOT Airport Project Manager on May 11. Prior to this, Lanier served as an airport development engineer in the Division of Aviation since 2007. He did an outstanding job providing timely construction and maintenance assistance to many of North Carolina's public airports. Lanier will oversee projects in the north-eastern section of the state once served by Chastity Clark.

**LENNON NAMED TO STATE BOARD OF TRANSPORTATION**

Governor Pat McCrory named Wilmington International Airport Authority board member John D. Lennon to the state Board of Transportation as an at-large member for ports and aviation. Lennon is managing partner of Oceancrest Advisory Services, LLC. He and his wife, Elizabeth Ann, live in Wilmington.



**WINNERS ANNOUNCED IN 2013 NORTH CAROLINA AVIATION ART CONTEST**

The Division of Aviation's 2013 North Carolina Aviation Art Contest saw a host of outstanding pieces worthy to advance to national and international competitions.

The top entries in three age groups will represent North Carolina in the national contest, sponsored by Embry-Riddle Aeronautic University of Prescott, Ariz., the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Coalition for Aviation and Space Education. The national winners will then be in line for an international competition sponsored by the Federation Aeronautique Internationale, which was established in 1905 to promote air sports.

The winners were chosen from this year's theme of "My Favorite Air Sport" (such as Aerobatics, flying model aircraft, experimental aircraft, ballooning, general aviation, gliding, hang gliding and paragliding, and parachuting). Judges looked for originality, adherence to the theme and overall aesthetics. All artwork used watercolors and acrylic/oil paint.

The top finishers in each category:

**JUNIOR**



1. Kaeleigh Difloure, 9, Moyock Elementary School



2. Lilly Aleman, 8, Pleasant Union Elementary School, Raleigh



3. C.J. Weaver, 9, Pleasant Union Elementary School, Raleigh

**INTERMEDIATE**



1. Michaela Danielle Barker, 12, Homeschool student, Grimesland



2. Alexandra Zubrowicz, 11, Wallace Elementary School



3. Michelle Mixon, 10, Jarvisburg Elementary School

**SENIOR**



1. Muhammad Ibrahim, 14, Zebulon GT Magnet Middle School



### Aviation News

#### **Foxx tells Senate infrastructure modernization will be DOT priority**

U.S. Transportation Secretary nominee and Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx told Congress that modernizing and building up the country's transportation infrastructure, including implementing the NextGen air traffic control system, will be a top priority during his tenure heading the Dept. of Transportation.

Foxx was nominated in late April by President Barack Obama to become the US's 17th transportation secretary, replacing Ray LaHood. He testified May 22 before the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee in a confirmation hearing, and the Senate is expected to confirm Foxx for the post without controversy. Foxx said investing in transportation infrastructure will be a point of emphasis if he is confirmed as transportation secretary.



### **AVIATION COMMUNITY MOURNS LOSS OF FORMER MOORE COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY CHAIRMAN JOHN OWEN**

John Owen, 80, of Pinehurst, the former chairman of the Moore County Airport Authority, passed away on April 27.



Owen led the airport authority from 2006-2012, and was a firm believer in the airport's positive economic impact on the Sandhills region. Following his move to Pinehurst in 1998 from Virginia, Owen was active in the Moore County Republican Party, serving as chairman from 2005-2009.

"John was the truest of gentlemen and a friend to all," said NCDOT Deputy Secretary for Transit Richard Walls. "I am grateful for his avid support of the Moore County Airport and all aviation in North Carolina. His leadership was instrumental to all the success the airport currently enjoys. He will be sorely missed by our aviation family."

Owen served 23 years in the U.S. Army, retiring as a Command Sergeant Major in 1973. His last assignment (1968-73) was in Washington, DC as a communications trip officer for the White House Communications Agency. He continued to live in northern Virginia following his retirement and worked at the Federal Aviation Administration headquarters in Washington. He later started Wynford Associates Ltd. and provided consulting services to the aviation industry for more than 20 years.

### **FAA FUND TRANSFER ALLOWS FIVE NORTH CAROLINA CONTROL TOWERS TO STAY OPEN UNTIL THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR**

U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced on May 10 that the recently enacted Reducing Flight Delays Act of 2013 will allow the Federal Aviation Administration to transfer sufficient funds to end employee furloughs and keep the 149 low activity contract towers originally slated for closure in June open for the remainder of fiscal year 2013. The FAA will also put \$10 million towards reducing cuts and delays in core NextGen programs and will allocate approximately \$11 million to partially restore the support of infrastructure in the national airspace system.

In North Carolina, towers at Concord Regional Airport, Kinston Regional Jetport, Hickory Regional Airport, Coastal Carolina Regional Airport in New Bern and Smith Reynolds Airport in Winston-Salem will stay open.

"Our state is glad the FAA has decided to keep the five contract air traffic control towers in North Carolina through the end of the year," said Deputy Secretary for Transit Richard Walls. "The towers play a critical role in North Carolina, and the federal government needs to continue funding them after the end of the current fiscal year."