

NCDOT to Hold Public Meetings Regarding Legislative Requirement to Implement Ferry Tolling

The N.C. Department of Transportation's Ferry Division will hold five listening sessions in September regarding the legislative requirement to implement tolls on the four ferry routes currently without tolls.

The state budget bill (N.C.G.S. SL 2026-41) requires the N.C. Board of Transportation and the NCDOT Ferry Division to establish and collect tolls for all ferry routes starting Jan. 1, 2027. As such, the state is required in 2027 to start implementing tolls on the Currituck-Knotts Island, Bayview-Aurora, Hatteras-Ocracoke, and Cherry Branch-Minnesott Beach vehicle ferry routes. Tolls are already collected on four other ferry routes.

During the listening sessions, Ferry Division representatives will be available to answer peoples' questions and accept public feedback on the implementation process. All five listening sessions will include the same project information and opportunities for public comment. The listening sessions will be held in an open-house style format, during which people can drop in at their convenience and discuss the ferry toll implementation process with Ferry Division representatives.

The five open house listening sessions are scheduled to be from 6-8 p.m. at the following locations:

Tuesday, Sept. 1
Beaufort County Community
College
5337 U.S. 264 East
Washington

Wednesday, Sept. 2
Pamlico Community College
Delamar Center
5049 Highway 306 South
Grantsboro

Thursday, Sept. 3
Knotts Island Elementary School
413 Woodleigh Road
Knotts Island

Tuesday, Sept. 8
Graveyard of the Atlantic
Museum
59200 Museum Drive
Hatteras

Wednesday, Sept. 9
Ocracoke School
120 Schoolhouse Road
Ocracoke

The Ferry Division is developing the policies, rate recommendations, payment and collection systems, and infrastructure needed to implement the new tolling program by Jan. 1, 2027.

The timeline is compressed, with several required milestones before implementation. Ferry Division staff will present the proposed tolling plan to the N.C. Board of Transportation at its regular Oct. 8 meeting. The Board of Transportation is expected to consider adopting toll rates and rate-setting methodology on Nov. 5.

Additional details on the ferry tolling implementation can be found on the NCDOT project webpage at <https://www.ncdot.gov/divisions/ferry/Pages/ferry-tolls.aspx> or by visiting www.ncdot.gov and searching "Ferry" or "Ferry Tolling."

Interested parties may share feedback and concerns at the listening sessions or online by completing a short survey on the project webpage. The survey will be available until the public comment period concludes at midnight on **Sept. 14th, 2026**. Comments may also be submitted at any time throughout the

comment period by phone by calling **(984) 205-6615** project code **10744**, or by email to ferry-tolling@publicinput.com, or mail to Emily Richards, NCDOT Public Involvement, 1598 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1598.

All public feedback received will help NCDOT better understand customer and community perspectives and will be considered, where feasible, as implementation decisions are evaluated and finalized.

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for people who wish to participate in this workshop. Anyone requiring special services should contact Emily Richards, Environmental Analysis Unit, at 1598 Mail Service Center in Raleigh; 919-707-6014; or edrichards1@ncdot.gov as early as possible so that arrangements can be made.

Those who do not speak English, or have a limited availability to read, speak or understand English, may receive interpretive services upon request prior to the meeting by calling 1-800-481-6494.

Aquellas personas no hablan inglés, o tienen limitaciones para leer, hablar o entender inglés, podrían recibir servicios de interpretación si los solicitan antes de la reunión llamando al 1-800-481-6494.

