

Ferry Tolling Implementation

Public Engagement Survey Results and Participant Comments

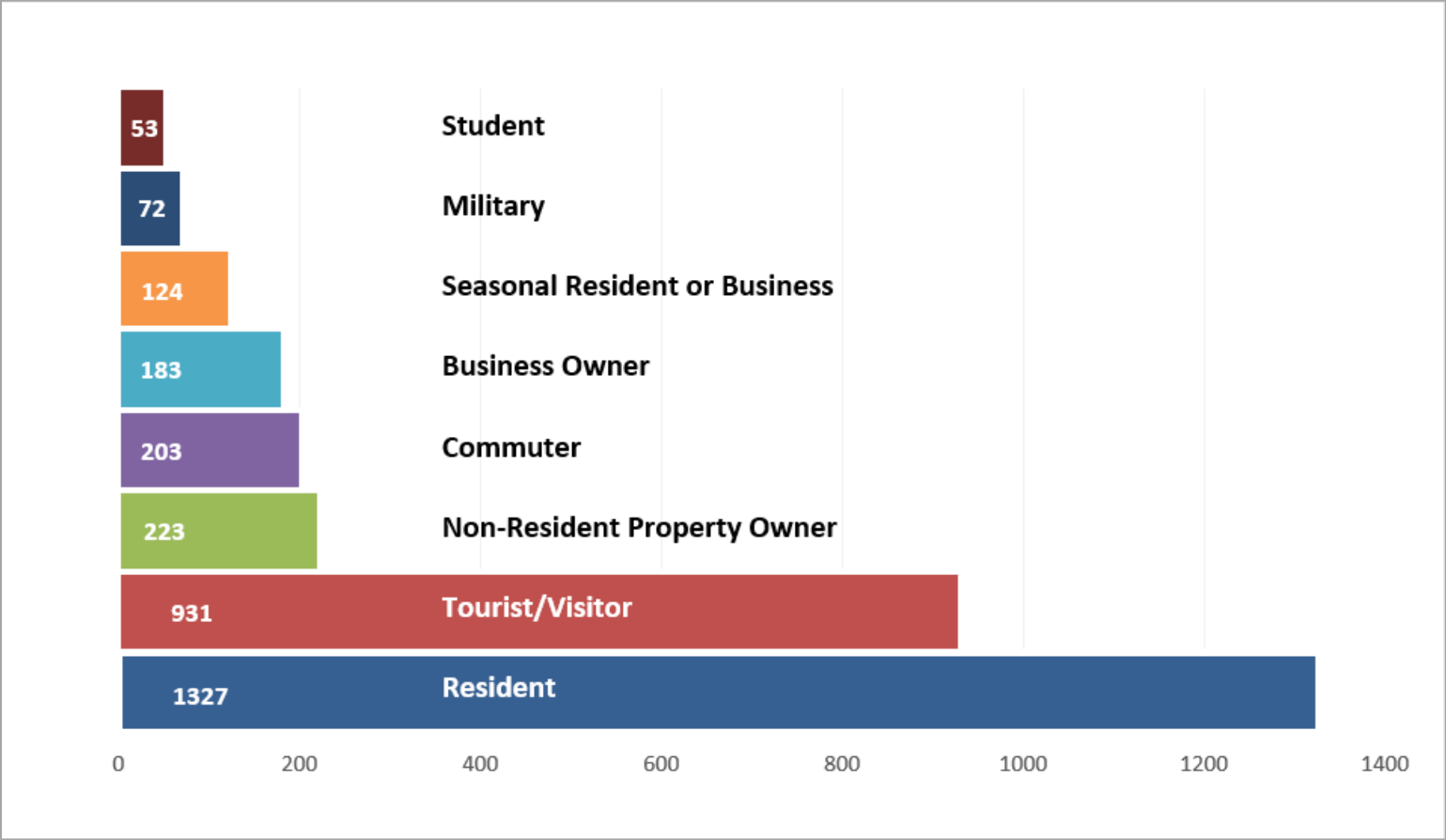
All participants

Filtered by Date

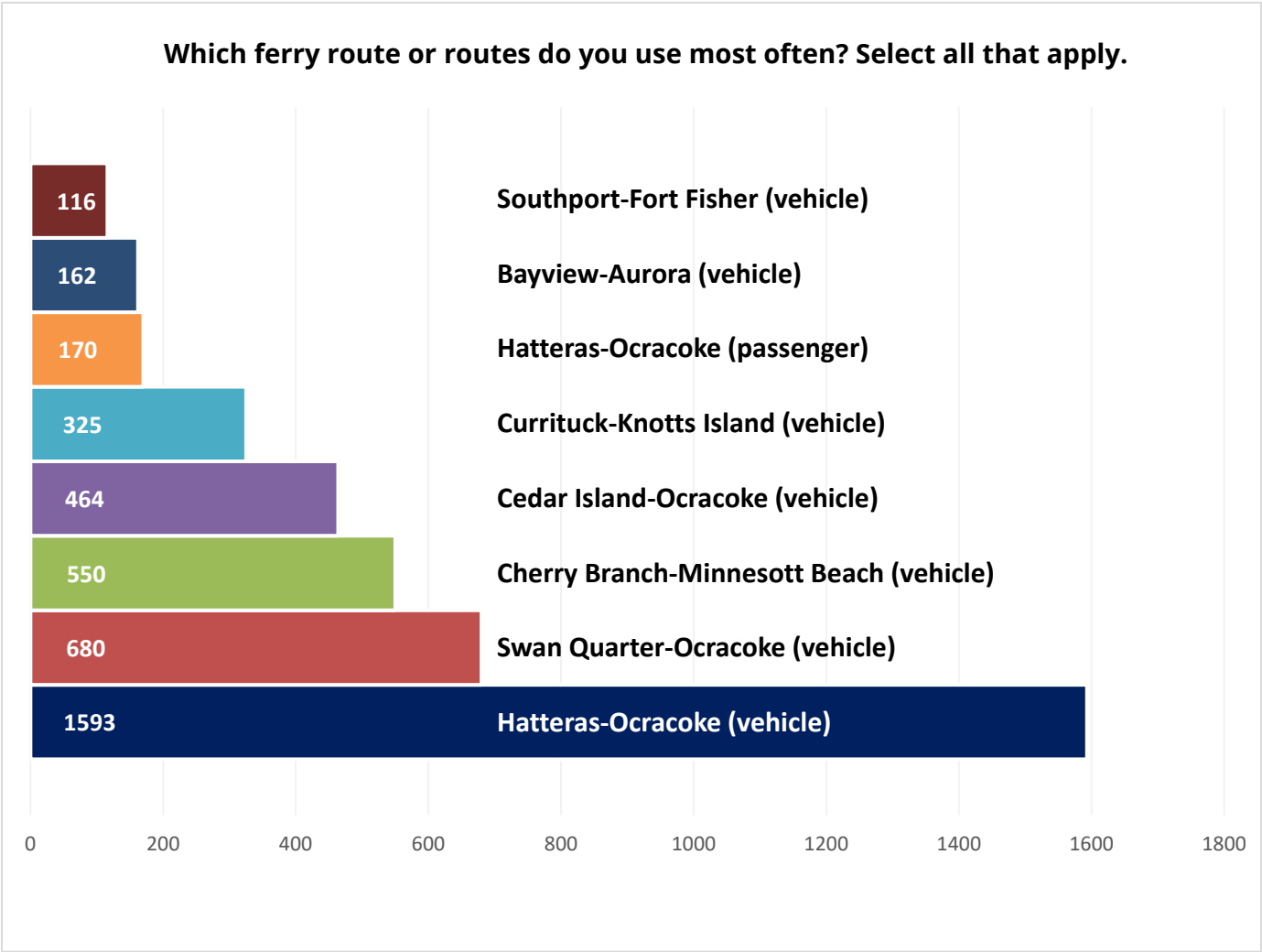
Overall Project
Engagement

VIEWS	PARTICIPANTS	RESPONSES	COMMENTS	SUBSCRIBERS
8,203	2,810	47,051	1,165	385

What best describes you? Select all that apply.

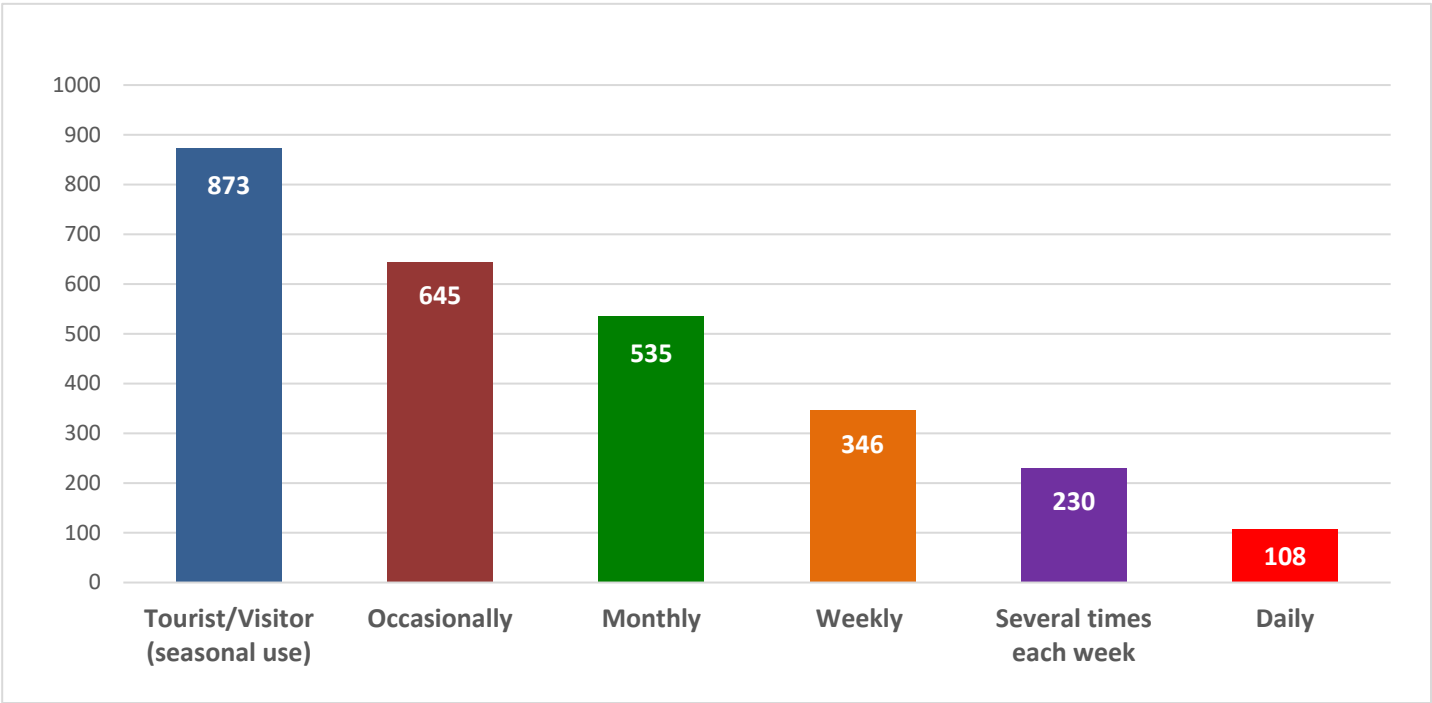


3,116 Respondents

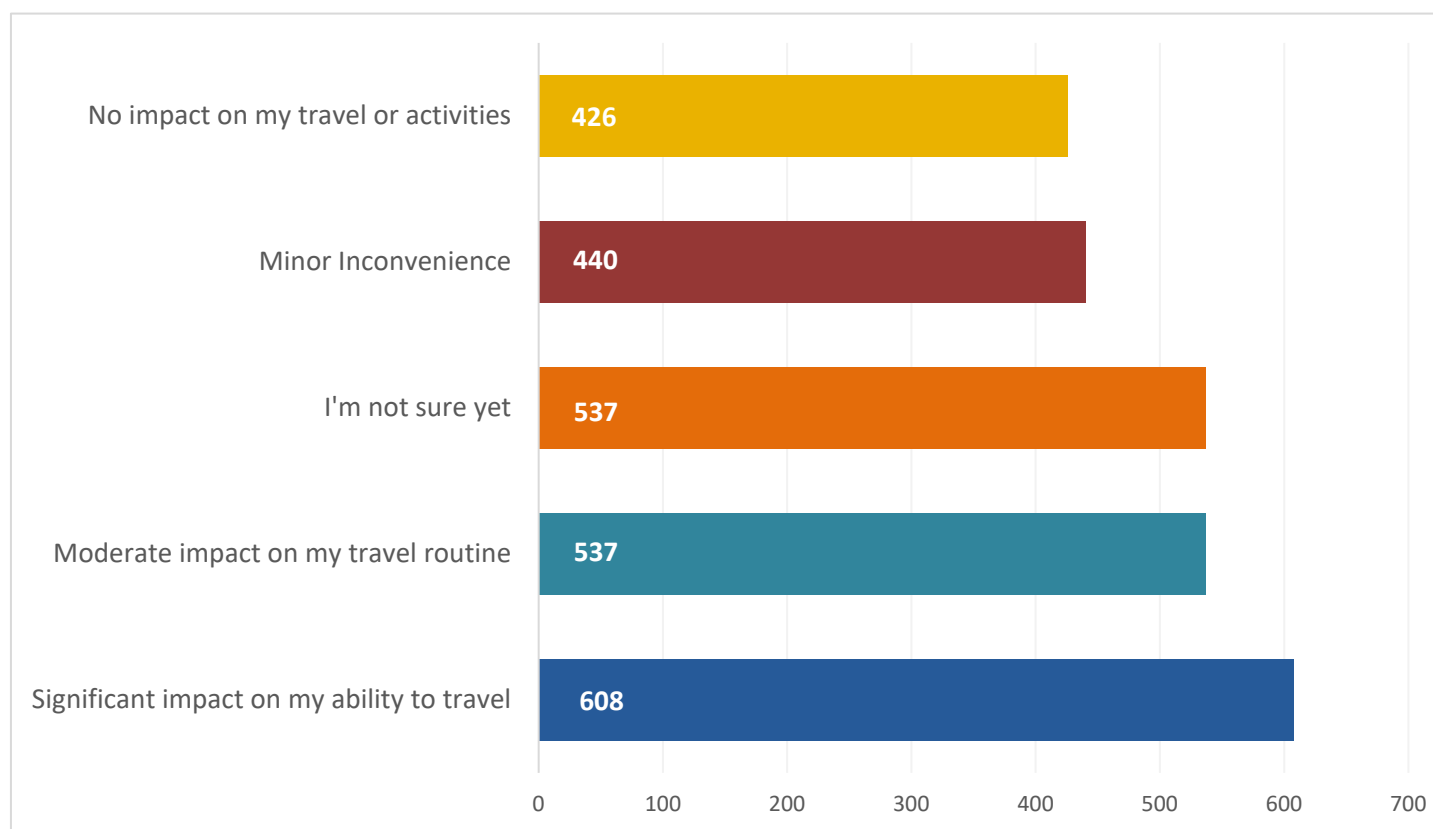


2,588 Respondents

Thinking of the route you use most often, how frequently do you use that ferry route?

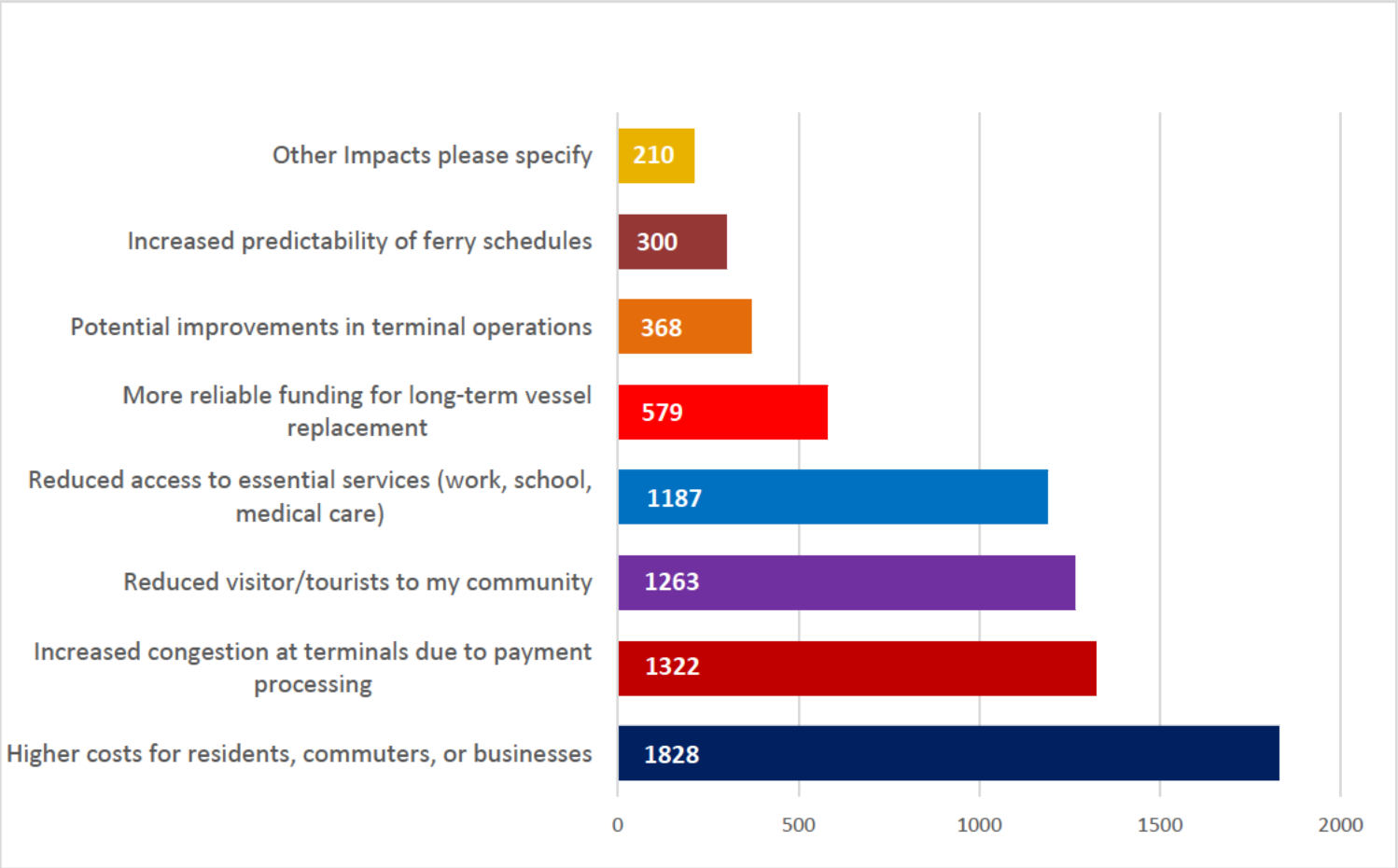


2,558 Respondents
Participants could have multiple responses.

How do you expect ferry tolls to impact your daily travel or activities? Select all that apply.

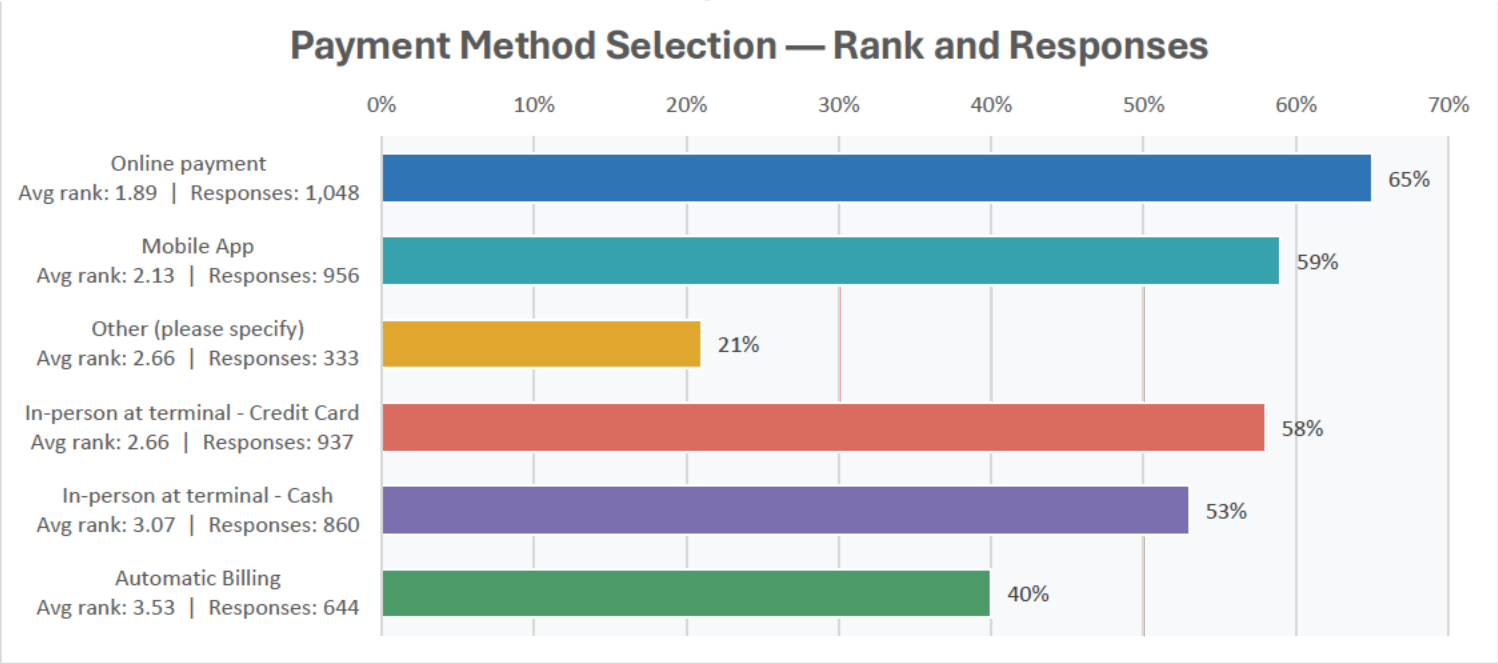
2,429 Respondents

What impacts do you think your community might experience? Select all that apply.



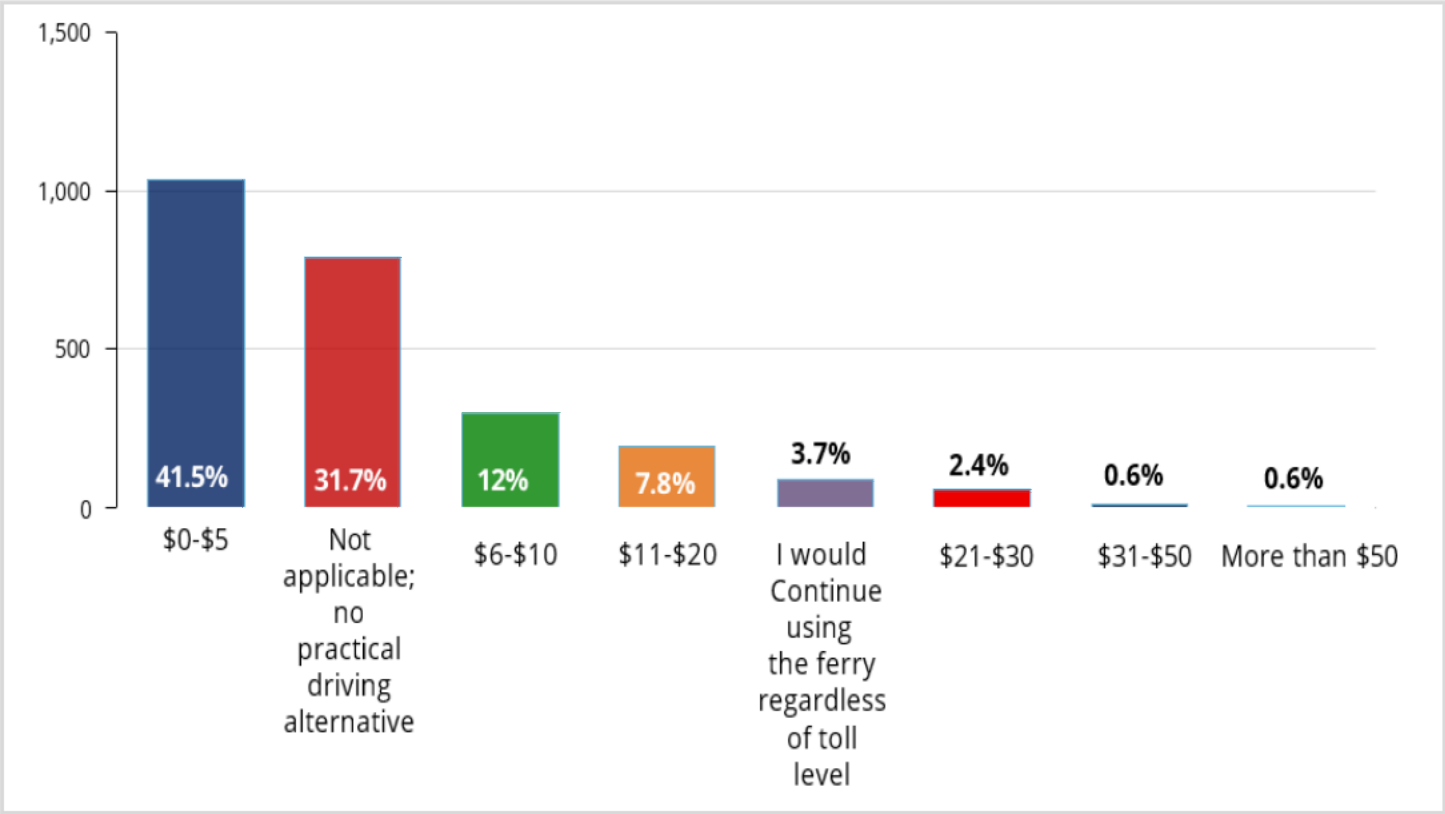
2,442 Respondents

What payment methods would be most convenient for you? Drag the options to rank them from most convenient at the top to least convenient at the bottom.



1,619 Respondents

Assuming reliable ferry service remains available, what is the highest one-way toll you would likely pay before choosing to drive instead of using the ferry, if a practical driving alternative



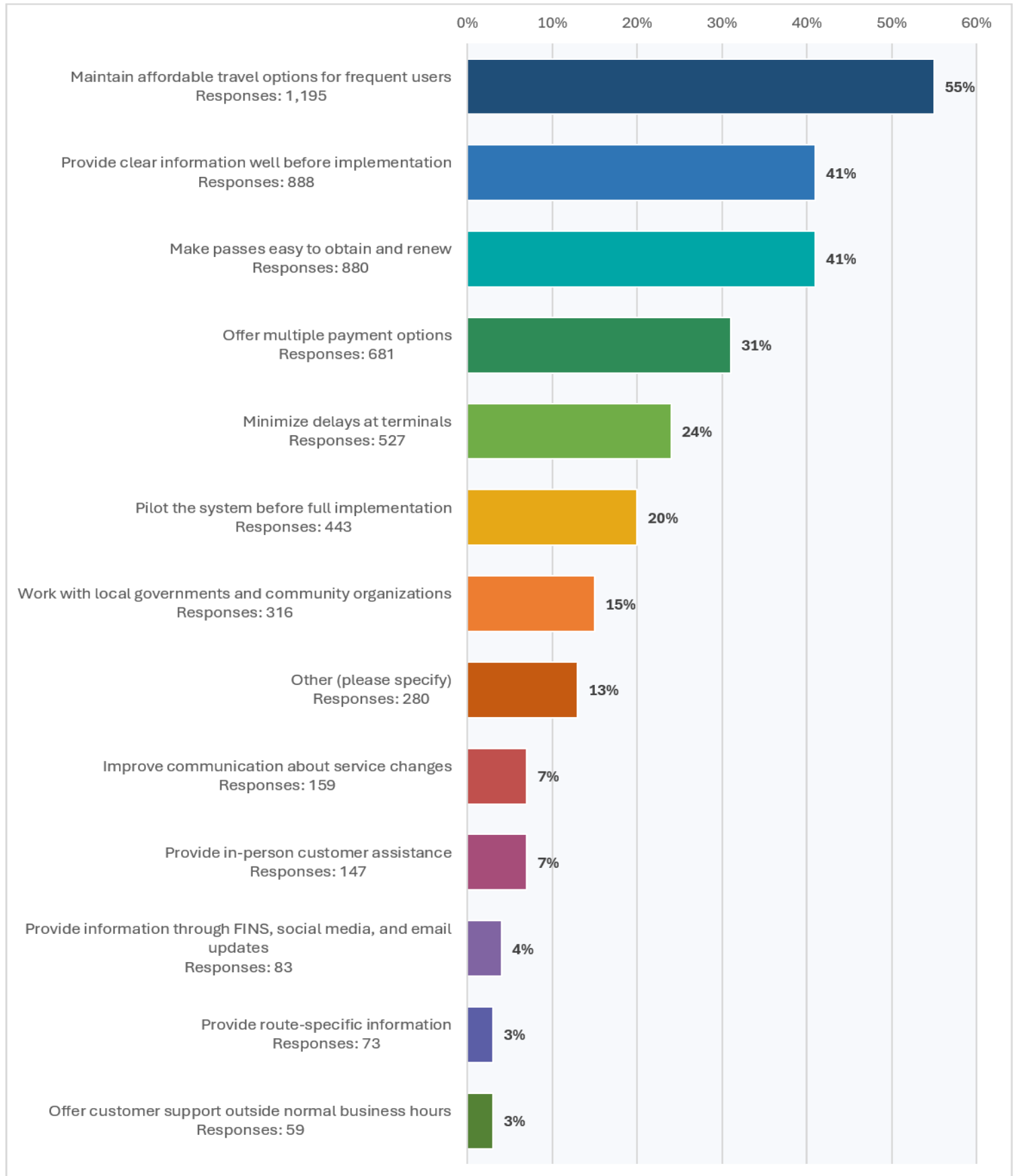
2,737 Respondents

How well do the following services for ferry passengers match your expectations?

Frequency of ferry service	9% Exceeds expectations	63% Meets expectations	22% Does not meet expectations	3% Not applicable	3% Do not know
Reliability and punctuality of ferry service	9% Exceeds expectations	56% Meets expectations	32% Does not meet expectations	1% Not applicable	3% Do not know
Wait time to board ferry	9% Exceeds expectations	65% Meets expectations	21% Does not meet expectations	2% Not applicable	2% Do not know
Cost of ferry service	18% Exceeds expectations	41% Meets expectations	7% Does not meet expectations	22% Not applicable	11% Do not know

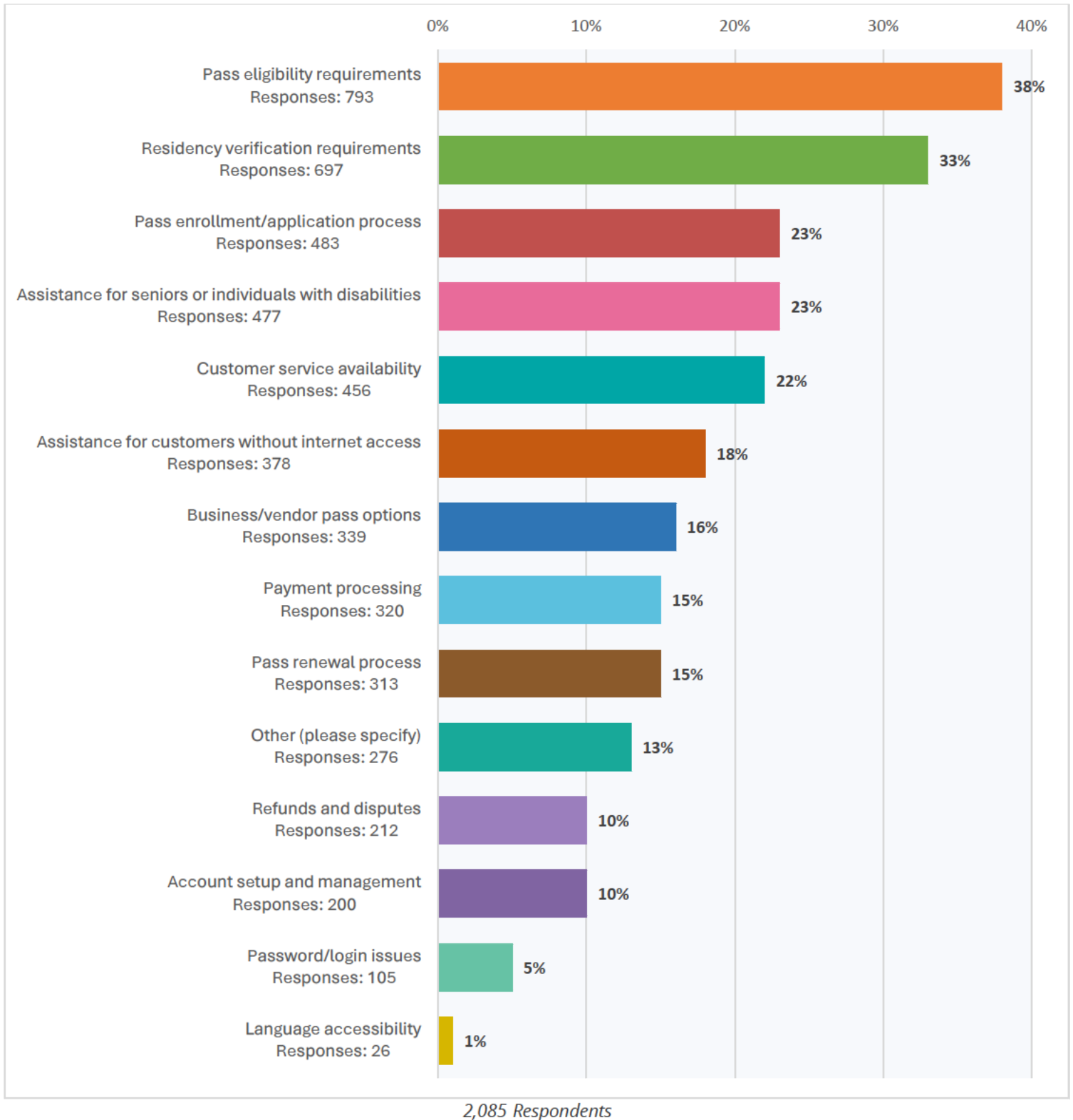
2,382 respondents

What should NCDOT do to make implementation work better for you or your community? Select up to three.



2,169 Respondents

**What concerns or suggestions do you have regarding passes, accounts, or customer support?
Select up to three.**



Additional Participant Comments

*The following responses are presented as submitted.
Spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and wording have not been edited.*

Because I am a full-time resident and full-time employee on Ocracoke Island, the ferry service is as important to me as a bridge is to others. Without a reliable and free service, I am denied the same transportation services my fellow NC residents. The emotional toll for being isolated and free to access medical services is unbearable and unfair. Our children are denied services to participate in fieldtrips and competitive sports without reliable transportation services. Those extra curriculum activities provide them with a wealth of social and physical activities for a healthy, well-rounded individual. Denying free transportation services is wrong.

9/17/2026

Required priority passes is necessary for locals, especially parents and grandparents of school (?) who play sports. Or how about people who have been at hospital or having tests all day. They need priority. It could go on and on, just think people about getting home, your home, anybody's home. Would any of you like to pay to get home no matter where you live?

9/17/2026

My husband and I have been living on Ocracoke since 1998. I taught school on the island for 16 years and my husband managed the Hardware store before we retired. We are now 74 & 75 and love living on the island. Ferry tolls and no priority passes to Hatteras Island will be a problem for us, living on a fixed retirement income. We use the Hatteras route for doctor's appointments, shopping and supporting the schools sports teams. Ocracoke Island is a unique barrier island with a long history dating back to the 1700's. We don't need our lifeline (sic) cut.

9/17/2026

As an Ocracoke resident, I strongly believe resident priority boarding needs to remain a priority as changes are made to the Hatteras-Ocracoke ferry route. For those who live here, the ferry isn't simply a way to visit the island—it's our connection to work, medical appointments, groceries, school, family, and other essential needs off island.

Residents already have to plan daily life around ferry schedules, weather, delays, and seasonal traffic. Losing priority boarding would create an additional burden for the people who depend on this route year-round. Whatever changes come with the new toll system, I hope NCDOT recognizes that reliable access for Ocracoke residents is essential and ensures that resident priority boarding is protected.

9/17/2026

This process has gotten blown way out of proportion. The original intent was to be able to "bank" some funds to replace ferries. We are down numerous ferries in both routes and no replacements in sight. That is not sustainable. The ferries need updated and replaced.

I've heard that the start up cost will be high, but we already have a ferry reservation system in place and personnel is already at each port.

I also feel that residents and or those with health concerns be give a priority pass. I was recently speaking with a visitor who asked where residents shop. I told them Avon or Nags Head. They asked if residents did it once a week? My reply was it may be once a month! Their mouth dropped! When I recounted what it takes, they again couldn't believe what residents do to stay here. Again think about refrigerated or frozen items and waiting 3 hrs at the big parking lot at Hatteras. Also, delivery trucks need priority.

9/17/2026

How many trips have to be made on the Currituck-Knotts Island Route per year to show an reasonable ROI on the added expense of now charging for tolls?

Where will the expense to revenue for each route be posted?

9/15/2026

Charging residents and students should not happen. The ferry is the only direct NC route to currituck, without traveling thru 2 Virginia cities. The ferry was put in place for the schools and should remain free to the students and residents.

9/15/2026

If you need to charge us a toll, then charge us a toll. I think it's silly because when you pay for something you expect to get what you pay for. I don't see that happening with Hatteras Ferry because it rarely ever runs when it says it's going to. So I'm really not sure how this will work.

PLEASE do not get rid of our priority passes. We live here and we work here and we need to be able to get on and off island for doctors appointments, school, work, vet appts, emergencies, flights at Raleigh/New Bern/Norfolk airports. How are we supposed to do any of this if we can't catch the ferry we need to catch with our priority pass? I have had to rush off the island to go to the vet for emergencies with my dogs. I wouldn't have been able to get off island in a timely manner without a priority pass.

How am I supposed to make a doctors appointment if you expect me to wait in line for hours in the summer with the tourists? What am I supposed to tell my doctor? That I might get there at 8am or 2pm or 4pm? That I don't know when I'll get there because I don't know what ferry I'll take because they took away my priority pass?

My grandma is 90, in the summer I don't want her waiting in her car in the line for the ferry for hours. She should be able to get home in a timely manner.

Please understand that we live here and we love living here, but you're making us living here extremely difficult if you take away our priority passes. Maybe the state senator who thought this was a good idea would like to come to Ocracoke and sit in the ferry line for a few hours before she makes the suggestion to do away with priority passes.

9/14/2026

Ocracoke residents and visitors already pay tolls to ride ferries to the mainland at Cedar Island or Swan Quarter. The Hatteras Inlet ferry is the "existing, comparable, nontoll route" to Ocracoke, as required by NC General statute section 136-89.197. So someone in Raleigh is going to have to work that out. Ocracoke residents who frequently travel into mainland NC already budget \$150 annually for a commuter pass on those ferries. Under the new toll plan, locals who rarely travel off the Outer Banks (via Hatteras) will begin to face a new expense, and forever. Every Ocracoke resident and visitor will also pay the premiums that delivery services will certainly tack on.

Of more concern to Ocracoke residents is the plan to discontinue Hatteras Inlet ferry priority loading (tolled or not) for vehicles registered to addresses of Ocracoke residents who use the Hatteras Inlet ferry to travel up the Banks and back for supplies or medical needs. The trip already takes most of a day, likely including some delay or schedule/appointment change. Such uncertainty makes a reservation system impractical for the return trip. During the busy season, island residents and families could face a multi-hour wait while the groceries in the cooler thaw or spoil, the numbness wears off, and the bored and restless kids act like bored and restless kids. In any case, the priority vehicles are almost always a small fraction of the ferry's capacity.

9/14/2026

Please delay the tolling process til after January 2027. As this will provide time for proper discussion and tolling costs.

9/14/2026

I9/14/2026

6. Assuming reliable ferry service remains available, what is the highest one-way toll you would likely pay before choosing to drive instead of using the ferry, if a practical driving alternative is available?

- Use my own boat
- Build a bridge

Seems to be no rationale for allowing the 20 counties to have passes. Must have been done to get the votes for the law to pass.

Yes? No?

9/14/2026

Please continue to provide the Ocracoke resident priority passes. The residents need to have priority to handle emergencies as well as day to day life activities.

9/14/2026

I feel that at this time there is not enough time to have this system properly implemented before the deadline without mass chaos. It's sept and you have to put out a system by Jan. There isn't enough time without major issues, and those of us who need access for regular work and personal needs will be the most effected.

9/14/2026

G

9/14/2026

We visit every other month and usually make multiple trips a week. Due to erosion the road is closed many times and the ferry doesn't run. We would use the Cedar Island and swan quarter ferries too but we are never sure a.the road will be open, b.the ferries will be running and c.we will make the connection on time. If there is a fee, I want a precise time to board. I do not want to wait 2 hours or 3 in a line. If it is free, you trade off the wait in line.

9/14/2026

Residents need to have a priority pass. A priority pass for residents isn't a luxury, it is a necessity. Residents need a priority pass in order to make scheduled doctor appointments, vet appointments for pets, professional service appointments (accountant, attorney), and grocery shopping. Also, some residents leave Ocracoke in the morning and need to get back for an evening job at a restaurant. Parents of student athletes that leave Ocracoke to be able to attend their child's sporting event need to be able to get back on the ferry in a timely manner to be sure to get home before, or at least, close to the same time the school bus will get back to the island. The NEED for Ocracoke residents to have a priority pass for the Hatteras Ferry is simply common sense.

9/14/2026

Permanent residents of Ocracoke should be exempt from tolling on at least one route to Ocracoke, preferably the Hatteras-Ocracoke route since it is the most used by residents. Ocracoke is not a private island! My home is off SR 1337 and my business is on the corner of SR 1328 and NC Hwy12, both maintained by NCDOT as are most of the roads on Ocracoke island. When the tolls are put in place in January, Ocracoke residents will be the only citizens of North Carolina that will have to pay a toll to leave their home and travel off Ocracoke. Every off island customer that comes to my business will have to pay a toll. No other business in North Carolina has to operate under this additional cost to its customers. Every other NCDOT maintained road system throughout North Carolina has a free alternative.

Service and ridership has been declining for several years on the Hatteras-Ocracoke Ferry route due to changes in the length of the route, reliability issues, and uncertainty on how long the wait time will be. Adding a toll to this route without an immediate improvement in service, reliability, and reduced wait times will only further reduce ridership. Our island economy is overwhelmingly dependent on the ferry. With all that is at stake for the residents of Ocracoke I would strongly recommend delaying implementation until appropriate study and thought can be given to how to implement a Hatteras-Ocracoke Toll. The current "rushed" approach is a poor strategy.

9/14/2026

I already provided my comments.

9/14/2026

Implementation of this ferry tax without ANY impact studies is a travesty and shameful! One tenth of Pamlico County are Military veterans and retirees who depend on and utilize MCAS Cherry Point for work, medical, pharmacy, VA Clinic and base privileges. There are also active duty military members who live here while stationed at Cherry Point and civilians who work there. The toll-free ferry is a connection of NC HWY 306 that is vital to accessing our benefits. "Driving Around" is not a viable option and is not cost effective or time efficient, especially during the construction through James City. The fact that this has been forced on the people of Pamlico County, one of the poorest rural counties in NC, is even more heinous, not to mention the impact on small businesses. Any increase in expenses for businesses will be handed to the consumer, increasing the financial impact on County residents, many of whom are on fixed incomes. For one of the most utilized ferries in the ferry system, I would think there would be more research into the impact on local residents, schools, businesses and economy before anything like this takes place. The fact that nobody was even asked is an insult to the people of Pamlico County. County residents should be exempt from this toll. I chose to live here based on easy access to MCAS Cherry Point for my health care, pharmacy needs, VA Clinic and Commissary and Exchange privileges that I have earned. Forcing me and my fellow veterans to pay for this access borders on discrimination. In a state that is highly supported by the U.S. Military, one would think that should have some impact on decision making. I respectfully request this be reconsidered for the residents of Pamlico and Carteret Counties.

9/14/2026

Teens who are attempting to attend school, work,etc should not get the added weight of another fee.

9/14/2026

I use the ferry for work through the public school system. The addition of tolls could increase the time it takes to board the ferry and provide additional financial burden on the school system.

9/14/2026

Please have Quickpass as an option for paying ferry tolls.

9/14/2026

We are residents of Ocracoke Island. We must use the ferry as the continuation of our only highway to get off the island. We don't the choice to drive. We must be able to keep our priority boarding passes in order to conduct our off island business, meet scheduled business and medical appointments, and other vital travel needs. It is equally important that we also be able to return to our homes without having to wait as long as 3 hours in the summer and especially for those with medical issues. The current priority pass system should continue while permanent statutory authorization is persued.

9/14/2026

Charging tolls for primarily local use of the ferry system just burdens an already financially stretched population. This shouldn't have happened in general, but making a significant discount for residents should be a priority.

9/13/2026

as a lifetime resident of Knotts Island, a frequent passenger and parent of a school aged child, the implementation of a toll will negatively affect the residents who rely on it as a means of transportation. I fully understand and would support a toll for passengers who are not LOCAL residents specific to that route. I understand the need for funding to help improve the system. But the very idea of putting ANY of that cost on the tax payers of this State, ESPECIALLY those of the two communities who rely on it the ferry not only for basic means of transportation but most importantly its means of travel to and from mainland schools! I refuse to pay any toll forced on our community surrounding the Currituck/Knotts Island route and personally will no longer ride the ferry for any purpose.

9/13/2026

Limiting the response to the final two questions to three items per question is absolutely ridiculous. All of the possible answers are of equal importance. This appears to be another example of our government using loaded survey questions to claim that citizens are not concerned about items that are, in fact, actually of high importance to the majority of respondents.

9/13/2026

Students and parents transiting should not be required to pay a toll. There are no middle or high schools on Knott's Island.

9/13/2026

Funding for ferry services should already be paid from state and local taxes, including road tax on fuel sales and property taxes.

9/13/2026

this is penealizing students and families that utilize the ferry from the island to mainland. It's not safe to have the high schoolers driving on the dark, windy roads at night after sports, but then penalizing them for staying late to be involved in the community and support school extracurriculars. At a minimum families with school-aged children should have free passes- this includes weekends for games

9/13/2026

If you want to put a toll on the ferry only toll non NC residents

9/13/2026

I think this is stupid. I would understand if we had tons of visitors going to Knott's Island, but this ferry is mainly used by residents. The ferry is the only thing that connects the island to North Carolina. Otherwise our free way of transportation is to go into another state to get to our land. It will cause fewer people living on Knott's Island and fewer residents to go visit. It will get expensive. Especially for teens that drive to the high school or parents taking their children to and from middle and high school. Plus people that live there will take their business to Virginia instead of putting it back into our community. Now we do like going for day trips to Ocracoke island. But that will stop a lot of people that live in driving distance for the day from going. Maybe keep a toll during tourist season or lower rates for residents including the neighboring counties. Do a residential confirmation ahead of time online or by fax and those people receive a barcode or a sticker so it will not slow down those needing to purchase for Ocracoke.

9/13/2026

None

9/13/2026

My family does not use the ferry

9/13/2026

I don't use the ferry, was told to do the survey

9/13/2026

No comments

9/13/2026

Students who reside on KI should not have to pay to ride the Ferry to get to and from school. Currituck County residents should not have to pay

9/13/2026

None

9/13/2026

Our children in school should have free and dependable transportation to school. Patents should not have to struggle financially getting their children to school. Education first.

9/13/2026

I take this ferry daily from Knotts Island to Currituck to work in Elizabeth City, in Pasquotank County. I have been taking this ferry since I was in school, and there has never been a cost to use the ferry service. It is a struggle for me to drive around over an hour home, and quite expensive, as fuel prices continue to climb, and I put needless wear on my vehicle. To the legislators to put this into effect before meetings even conspired - you are harming the way of life for many, many people, even beyond KI and Currituck. I express nothing but disappointment and anger for the lack of information and communication. For these people to not even have the balls to show up for these meetings is nothing short of despicable.

9/13/2026

Ocracoke residents should not have to pay a fee or wait in line with tourists to get to their homes or to get off the island for essential appointments. As a frequent visitor, I strongly support preservation of free and priority ferry access for those who live on the island.

9/13/2026

Should be FREE for residents and businesses. The ferry IS their highway for which they are already taxed!

9/13/2026

The Hatteras-Ocracoke Ferry should be exempt from tolling, at least for North Carolina legal residents who have no alternative non-tolled route and already pay for NC highways via 4 different ways. The ferry is the only way to get to Ocracoke, other than private boat or flying. If there has to be a toll, toll out-of-state visitors only. Tolling NC tax-paying residents is unfair. All other toll roads in the state have an alternate non-toll driving choice. Ocracoke does not.

9/13/2026

Ocracoke residents have no choice but to take the ferry, they should not have a fee for use.

9/13/2026

I believe the ferry system is a continuation of our local highway system and should NOT be a fee system. This is not a toll road and this is our method of commuting. The math does not work. We endure frequent breakdowns of ferries with no complaints, that will change with a fee system. We will expect a reliable service if we are charged for the service.

9/12/2026

Ocracoke Local residents should NOT have to pay for the ferry and should absolutely have Priority passes. I own a house in Ocracoke but live in Kitty Hawk. We spend several weeks out of the year in Ocracoke. Pay property taxes, etc. in Ocracoke. We have priority passes that we pay for and that option should continue.

9/12/2026

Allow Priority Boarding for permanent residents

9/12/2026

I will now be forced to change my doctors as they are in Morehead City. If I do go to Morehead I will use the new bypass and drive. Thanks for doing this in time for high fuel prices - (sarcasum).

9/12/2026

Residents, service vehicles and property owners should all have access to priority boarding passes.

9/12/2026

Deb Levesque

203 592-4491

Feedback

Seniors, vets, reduced \$1.00

1. Ryan Builders + parent company NVR make billions in housing + do not pay impact fees. Such as funding for public infrastructure transportation, school or trash fees that needs to change. Look for money there, they make billions.

2. Charge tourists + visitors not residents

2025 Outerbanks population all counties approx 72,000

Currituck County residents 33,158

Tourists over 200,000 in summer charge them a fee

3. \$150 is not a discount it is a new bill..

4. Charging residents to access their own county services

Jury duty, school, library, work, medical + food is unconsionable. The solution is not to pass a new "tax" without constituent feedback. Burdening thousands of residents without input sounds like taxation without representation to me.

Our goverment needs to manage our tax dollars better.

5. We pay vehicle tax, highway use tax when vehicles are registered to new owner a first title for the use of roads, ferry

9/11/2026

The Knotts Island-Currituck ferry route began specifically to transport island students to the mainland for school (currently, two middle schools, a high school, and JP Knapp Early College). Many high school students choose to drive their own vehicles onto the ferry, as there is only one bus that services both CCHS and CCMS and it is often overcrowded. The ferry is the safest option for new teen drivers, who otherwise would have to drive an hour on winding back roads to get to/from school. These commuting students should not have to pay a toll to drive their personal vehicles and should be waived along with the school buses.

Apart from the transportation needs for commuting students, many residents rely on the ferry for a safer, more cost-effective means of gaining access to the rest of the county for healthcare, business, and shopping needs. The burden of a \$150 commuter pass, especially per vehicle, is not an expense that many residents in this rural community are able to afford. They simply will not be purchased. And depending on the price of the toll for a one-way crossing, there will be little incentive for residents to take the ferry at all, as many would go out of their way to avoid payment.

I understand the desire to generate more revenue to go towards the purchase of a new fleet, but residents of affected counties already pay taxes that contribute to ferry operations.

Residents should be excluded from a newly enforced toll - the burden should be placed on visitors and tourists who will have no qualms incurring a fee for a novel mode of transportation.

9/11/2026

I hope for a smooth transition.

9/11/2026

Ferries are part of the NC transportation system and should be funded accordingly. If the needs of the state are greater than funds, raise taxes. That's their purpose. Coastal communities depend on the ferry system for survival. Ferries are a part of our roads. Fund them with increased gasoline tax if necessary. Tolling ferries is NOT a viable way to raise needed funds. Ask us about our needs before developing a plan that won't work.

9/11/2026

Tolling ferries is NOT an efficient use of government time, energy nor money. Tolling ferries will raise minimal if any revenue, after costs. The nature of the ferry is a slow means of transportation, and the number of vehicles transportable is minimal. The public deserves a cost-benefit analysis, as well as an actual listening session where government officials and representatives listen to and understand the unusual needs of living in coastal communities. Please consider raising gasoline revenue if DOT means more money. That's what the gasoline tax is for. The ferry service is part of our state transportation system, and should be funded accordingly.

9/11/2026

Will not use if tolls are implemented and will encourage others to do the same.

9/11/2026

Resident pass option is our best choice for our 2 vehicles.

9/11/2026

I work as a health care provider in Ocracoke. Our residents have to travel off island frequently for health care procedures. While the clinic is able to provide some basic health care, we do not have the funding to offer many necessary procedures like mammograms, colonoscopies, dental care, eye exams, or any specialist care. It is vital that residents have priority loading to be able to get to these appointments and back home. The Hatteras ferry allows these residents to attend appointments without having to incur additional travel costs associated with overnight stays. Priority is a necessity, not a privilege.

9/11/2026

Ferry Issues and Concerns

The past nine days, the Cherry Branch/ Minnesott Beach ferry has only run 1 day on a "regular" schedule. The remaining 8 days, the ferry has been on an "amended" schedule. The first 3 days of amended scheduled were for "scheduled Maintenance". Next was "workforce challenges" and the past 4 days were for "mechanical issues".

An amended schedule is essentially a half schedule. This means ferries are usually at capacity and it also means that one can plan on arriving at the ferry terminal and find that there are more folks waiting to board the ferry than the ferry can hold. This means at least an hour waiting on the next ferry or driving around, if that is possible.

And speaking of these frequent amended "half" schedules ... what happens to the employees when there are amended schedules? Are they sent home? Are they being paid?

The amended schedules seem to be more of the norm than the exception.

Recently, the Cherry Branch/ Minnesott Beach ferry closed for almost 24 hours due to "tides"; something we all know rise and fall about every 6 hours. I have no problem paying to ride the ferry however I do have a problem purchasing a pass or paying for a service that is increasingly unreliable. or unavailable

Scheduled Maintenance x 3 days

- Tuesday August 25
- Wednesday August 26
- Thursday August 27

Workforce Challenges

Friday August 28

Fully Functional

- Saturday August 29

Mechanical Issues

- Sunday August 30
- Monday August 31
- Tuesday September 1
- Wednesday September 2

9/11/2026

The ferry timing from Carteret Cty to Oriental area (Minnesott) ferry makes it prohibitive to visit the area for fun activities as the ferrys back at night when theater or dinner is done, doesn't align. Last ferry is at 9 when you are still at dinner, or driving to the ferry or still at a play. A 10pm ferry would be helpful but is not existing. We aren't able to go much anymore due to this.

9/11/2026

Salvo and Avon are not dependable so the Minnesott-Cherry Branch ferry often runs only hourly. We telephone the terminal before leaving home to verify the ferry schedule is operational as published.

9/11/2026

If implementation happens, start small.

9/11/2026

A pamlico county resident, this our "road" to Cherry Point, commissary, medical etc.

9/11/2026

Give passengers ID cards for individuals or family so as to having names, other IDs to complete reservations

9/11/2026

Everybody who lives on Ocracoke are not wealthy people. So keep the cost as low as possible. I definety think that all residents need to have priority passes. I have a handicap. I'm on kidney dialys and have to catch the ferry quiet often so I definety need priority loading pass

9/11/2026

We need priority passes for locals and vendors. My parents are older and need medical services that can't be done here. I have parts coming daily and without priority passes would never be able to count our parts.

We are not a rich community like everyone thinks, please keep passes and priority passes at a reasonable cost. Thank you, Jamie Jackson

I run the only auto garage and need to get parts everyday.
Thanks again

9/11/2026

I feel the commute for those who use the stairs to travel back and forth to Nutrien and other jobs on the side, for school would be a very hard financial burden on most. I feel residents to travel using the local series should not have to be tolled

9/10/2026

We live 2 miles from the ferry and attend church, Bible study and have friends who live across the river. This fee will prevent us from attending the church we want to attend. We are retired on limited income income and will be severely impacted by having to pay a fee to ride the ferry. Ferry service has been increasing in inconsistency. Work force challenges, break downs etc. we are so disappointed by this latest scheme to punish our rural community.

9/10/2026

the ferry is an extension of the highway. Costs should be included under highway maintenance and funded the same way.

9/10/2026

We would prefer if local residents be excluded from the necessity of paying for the Minnesott/Cherry Branch ferry.

9/10/2026

Read the article from Greg Piner on TownDock.net in Oriental. See August 31, 2026 issue.
Raising the gas tax only \$.001 would generate Millions of dollars without costing anything to implement.
Beating down and taxing the poor even more is not the answer and will lead nowhere good.

9/10/2026

Delay implementation by at least one year to thoroughly design and develop comprehensive system that is fair to all concerned. The ferries that are currently offered free of charge should continue that way. Legislature needs to reverse course and fund the ferries adequately as extension of highway network.

9/10/2026

None

9/10/2026

SHAME ON THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVES FOR DISRESPECTING RESIDENTS AND THE FERRY ADMINISTRATION BY MISPLACING THIS "MEETING" AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS TAX ON RESIDENTS AND NCDOT. WE'LL REMEMBER THE HOUSE AND SENATE MEMBERS IN THE ELECTIONS IN 2026 AND 2028.

9/10/2026

My name is Arianna and I am a full time resident and business owner of Ocracoke Island. I am 29 years old and have lived here my whole life. I have not known Ocracoke without our priority passes. As a business owner, I travel frequently and rely on my priority pass to be able to make it off and onto the island in a timely manner during the busy summer season. Things like doctors appointments, grocery shopping, business travel, etc.. would become a lot more difficult as the long lines would add on to the stress of leaving and coming back to the island which is my HOME. There is no driving route so the ferry is the ONLY way to leave and get onto the island.

9/10/2026

It's very sad that our government has zero concern for the folks who have no choice except the ferry to travel back & forth to Ocracoke. Just another unnecessary expense when times are already hard for so many people. Vote them out.

9/10/2026

I am a native of Ocracoke, I have lived here my whole life so far. I'm very upset that I have to pay to get to my home seeing there is no other way but by ferry to get home. But if this has to happen, though it shouldn't, all residents of Ocracoke need to have a PRIORITY PASS!!!!!! It isn't right that we would have to wait to go to doctor, vet, dentist and any other appointments and have to wait in line hours to get back home. Who else in North Carolina HAS to pay and wait for a ferry to get home???? Please help us keep Priority at least!!!

9/10/2026

I'm hoping the residential priority passes are continued.

9/10/2026

I know this is all about tolls but residents should definitely have a priority lane and priority boarding!

9/10/2026

My main concern is for permanent residents and those who need frequent access for work or service purposes. It seems their needs are being neglected. On top of that, what will the cost of implementing this tolling plan be, both in direct expense to NCDOT and lost revenue from visitors to Ocracoke unwilling/unable to pay a toll?

9/10/2026

It is essential to life on ocracoke to have ready access to the ferry and not be burdened by tolls or wait times. For doctor appointments and sporting events for schools kids etc. the priority pass must remain. The residents should not be "punished" for living there.

9/10/2026

Full-time residents on Ocracoke should be given priority access. As well, property owners should also be allowed to access the island after significant events, like Dorian in 2019, to attend to their properties. The government has no authority to prohibit property owners from attending to their properties. It appears this might be a constitutional issue which should be attended to in a near future.

9/10/2026

Full-time Ocracoke residents as well as the property owners need to have proper access to the island to attend through their properties. The fact that property owners who are not full-time are not allowed on the island after a significant event, Dorian in 2019, should be allowed.

9/10/2026

Ocracoke Island residents like me rely on the priority pass for essential needs. Having the priority pass on the Hatteras ferry route is the fastest way for us to get off island for doctors appointments, emergencies, and unexpected travel requirements. Without the priority pass, it would make living on Ocracoke very difficult and almost impossible with the potential wait times of just trying to leave the island.

9/10/2026

The resident priority pass is absolutely essential. Prioritize the people who live here and maintain the place MANY people choose to visit and benefit from each year. It is a human right to have appropriate access to medical services and without a priority pass this would be severely impacted.

9/10/2026

Priority lanes are a must for residents. Food service, ups, fedex, and mail services are also a priority service lane.

9/10/2026

Priority lands for local residents are a must. Also, any vendors and food service people need priority.

9/10/2026

3. Thinking of the route you use most often, how frequently do use that ferry route?

Varies due to annual appoints, dentist, doctors etc. Groceries

9/10/2026

If the priority is lifted we at Ocracoke are going back in time. I have lived here for 74 yrs. Priority was the best thing that ever happened for local people living on the island of Ocracoke.

9/10/2026

Ferry tolling needs to be easy + affordable. There should be a waiver of tolls for residents of Ocracoke, we have no travel options. We live on an island!

We also need priority leaving or coming to Hatteras as wee are land locked + need to travel up beach often to shop + for medical care! etc.

9/10/2026

The priority pass currently in place for Hatteras Ocracoke is critical to maintain for residents and commercial traffic essential to running the island. Especially older residents will suffer.

We already have serious DOT issues at the north end of Ocracoke unresolved to now add toll collection to the stacking issues.

If the priority passes are eliminated then reservations must be implemented for Hatteras Ocracoke at a minimum.

9/10/2026

We, the residents of Ocracoke must have priority on the Ocracoke/Hatteras ferry for appointments. My husband is on dialysis and has doctor appointments often. Not only appointments but needs to be able to leave in case of medical emergency. We are by far not rich and can't afford to leave a day ahead and spend the night.

People here are not rich. Parents want to go watch their children play sports like all of you can do off island. Without priority passes we can't make plans for anything important. Please consider how our lives (or yours) would be without this service. Thank you

P.S. Please keep price affordable for us.

9/10/2026

This is going to be a nightmare. Communications and are already awful with/from the ferry division. This will be an additional obstacle (sic) that NCDOT cannot handle and will not be able to handle this properly. This will change the face of tourism and profoundly affect our livelihoods and ultimately the future of Ocracoke.

I'm so mad, i can't even write properly - NCDOT should have been forward thinking 50-60 years ago and built a causeway, like in the keys. that has been successful the whole time. Instead, NCDOT insists on re-inventing the wheel every year, to the detriment of the OBX and outer banks.

This is yet another wasted effort that will only hurt the residents of Ocracoke. We are Doomed!

9/10/2026

4. How do you expect ferry tolls to impact your daily travel or activities?

Significant impact on my ability to travel - if there is no priority lane for residents!

5. What impacts do you think your community might experience?

More reliable funding for long-term vessel replacement - if money really use for this purpose

6. Assuming reliable ferry service remains available ...

Not applicable - I don't have boat or a airplane!

We have to use the ferry to get on and off the island. - It is our only option so a priority lane for us is a MUST! Waiting for 2+ hours to come home is a MAJOR BURDEN! Do any of you have to wait in a line, to get home? The toll should allowed but the PRIORITY PASS is a MUST! There are residents that can't afford to pay to ride the ferry to doctors and other essential serves.

9/10/2026

Continue to implement NCGS 136-89.197 - Provide an existing, alternative, comparable nontoll route in accordance with state law.

9/10/2026

The ferries are our "roads" and we have to go to doctor appointments, shopping, travel for school sports....just basic life things. It would make it unreasonably difficult to do these things without priority loading for residents and vendors.

9/9/2026

The loss is of the Ocracoke resident pass will be the end of this community. folks rely on that pass to access medical care, groceries, home repairs supply, kids sports and every single other reason a resident would need to leave the island. If the priority pass is lost we will have to stay overnight anytime leaving the island for the smallest of errands.

9/9/2026

if we no longer have free access to our home via the only route available, even the possibility of my children playing little league may come into question. If priority passes are no longer available, things youth sports are no longer feasible - something available to children all over the country. Imagine children separated from their parents, on a bus, waiting in line for hours during baseball season just to get back home after a game!

9/9/2026

Priority passes for locals and vendors are a necessity for this community to function. We use the ferries to go to doctor appointments, basic shopping, school sports. It is "our road" so to speak.

9/9/2026

Residents depend on priority passes heavily and depend on tourism. If charging a toll helps everyone be able access Ocracoke more easily, then doing so makes sense. If priority passes are taken away in that process, that is an egregious disservice to Ocracoke residents.

9/9/2026

1. How would you like to drive up to the street you live on and find a toll booth. You don't have any choice because it's the only road to your home and the government is making you pay to get home.
2. The PRIORITY PASS that allows you to get home ahead of hundreds or thousands of people who just want to ride around your neighborhood is now being taken away. Now you are in the line behind these cars just to go to the grocery store or the doctor or just to go home.

9/9/2026

Ocracoke residents cannot live on the island without a priority pass. There is no way to predict what ferry to catch to make off island appointments, meetings, vet appointments and all the other things we need to travel off the island for. I cannot imagine trying to figure out how to make appointments and what time I will be returning home without a priority pass. I leave the island multiple times a month for appointments and 95% of the time, I use the Hatteras ferry. I am not sure what the year round residents have done for the ferry division to decide to end the priority boarding for us but it is deeply concerning. It feels like a punishment and I am unsure why this decision has been made. The priority pass was established by the ferry division decades ago. If the NC Ferry division felt it was necessary to implement this priority loading 40 years ago, then it makes no sense to take it away now since the island has become more visited and ferry wait times are nothing like it was decades ago, as the ferry route is much longer. If there was a need to implement it then, why isn't there a need to keep it now? What has changed? The island has only become more popular and more visited. I just can't fathom why I need to fight so hard to get priority loading as a year round resident. Please keep the ferry priority as it is necessary to live on Ocracoke Island.

9/9/2026

You don't have enough spaces for all of my concerns. Tolling Hatteras for all opens up a giant can of worms for struggling residents who are already squeezed by rising costs. The elderly, school trips, drs appts, vendors serving the island will have to raise costs to offset their rising costs. I already pay taxes to fund the DOT. Fully fund the the ferry system with the surplus in the budget and stop wasting money. Explore alternative funding options before you unnecessarily burden residents.

9/9/2026

Permanendt Ocracoke residents need PRIORITY loading.

Fee should be forgiven for jury duty

If we have to pay, we should be able to expect better, more consistent service. Maintenance delays and cancelled trips should be limited.

Priority passes should not be available to non-resident property owners - over loading priority lanes will decrease visitor access.

Ocracoke residents should buy one pass per household - we have 2 vehicles and shouldn't have to buy for each.

9/9/2026

IF YOU HAVE TO PAY TO COME AND GO FROM YOUR HOMES THERE SHOULD NEVER BE A FERRY CANCELLATION OR DELAY EVER.

9/9/2026

NCDOT must consider residents that use the ferries continuously to access medical care. Older patients with cancer must reliably use the ferries for chemo treatments. Imagine if you will, having to wait in line with tourists while you are vomiting and breathless from chemo. We understand payment, but loss of priority passes is intolerable (sic) when only 18% of vehicles are residence based.

9/9/2026

While I am unhappy about having to pay \$150/yr (commuter pass) just to get home from grocery stores, doctor appts, etc., I am most concerned about losing priority loading as an Ocracoke resident. It is unconscionable that residents will be required to wait in stacking lanes with visitors during the peak tourist season while trying to navigate doctor appts and essential errands. P/S. reinstate/continue priority passes for Ocracoke residents.

9/9/2026

I have many concerns so will address my 2 highest concerns:

1. The eligibility for receiving a commuter pass is too restrictive. anyone who owns property on Ocracoke already pays N.C. real estate tax and N.C. insurance should be eligible to purchase an annual commuter pass.
2. There needs to be divided entrance gates into Hatteras dock so that those with a commuter pass and those who have purchased online tickets can be expedited into lanes.

9/9/2026

Priority pass is important to the community. The ability to travel with ease from your home to destinations off the island is important. No other city in N.C. has to wait to leave their community to an appointment or other important matters.

9/9/2026

Full time permanent residents need priority passes. We need this to be able to live on the island to access our doctors, essential errands and all parts of daily living. School trips, sports events and just the simple fact of emergencies.

Working on the island, we need to get back to serve the tourists in all aspects of businesses on the island. Who will be here to work if we are all waiting in a ferry line. Priority passes are a need that we cannot afford to lose. With the lines, on the Hatteras Ferry now, it would be unmanageable for residents to be able to live here. It would be such a hardship for all the full time, island residents.

9/9/2026

o whom it may concern:

My name is Susan Aiken. I live at [REDACTED] on Ocracoke. I currently have a priority pass on two of my vehicles and commuter passes for the Cedar Island and Swan Quarter ferries. If you do not live here, it is hard to understand. I would like to make a few points.

First, I am all for ferry tolls. I can remember my father back in the 70s, saying we needed to toll the Hatteras ferry. His primary reason was NC tax payers fund the ferry and a large percentage of people using the Hatteras ferry come from out of state. I understand there is not enough money to run the ferry system and we need to toll everyone. The one thing I ask is that the commuter pass that the majority of residents already purchase for the Cedar Island and Swan Quarter, also apply to the Hatteras ferry so residents do not endure more fees. Now I would like to address the priority pass for full time residents. A priority pass is not simply a luxury to skip to the front of the line. I have a mother in a nursing home in Tarboro, NC. If, in the height of the summer season, something happened to my mother and I needed to get to her in a timely manner, waiting in the line for hours could mean that I wouldn't make it to my mother in time. Wait times for the Hatteras ferry can typically run from 1-4 hours in the summer.

I manage a gift shop on the island. Our main supplier is in Wanchese. A typical supply run is leaving at dawn in order to attempt to make it back after lunch to relieve another worker in our shop\hotel by 1 :30. If we can't do that, we have to hire at least one more worker and the work force here is stretched extremely thin.

My boss's husband currently has cancer and a heart issue. My boss has a pacemaker. If a medical reason arises, ie, pacemaker sends an alert, they need to get off the island and to a doctor pronto. No priority pass could mean life or death. And yes, I am aware that the ambulance can be called and goes to the front of the line. But let me tell you about several incidents in the last few years where the ambulance has been en route to the hospital with a patient and another emergency has arisen. We've even had an incident where the helicopter couldn't get here. These are not one in a million things that may happen. These things do happen.

And how about the school bus leaving the island with kids. It drives around to Hatteras to get back in the same day. In spring and fall months, we still have a lot of visitors. Let's say the bus goes to the front of the line. How about all the parents that went to support their kids? The ferry fills and they can't get on? Who is gonna watch their kids that have made it back to school while the parents are waiting in line for the next ferry? Teachers? School staff? Oh, and who is gonna pay them for their time watching kids until their parents can get here? And yes, it will happen I assure you.

There are residents here that require physical therapy. That doesn't stop because it is summer and busy traffic. One resident just had an amputation. When she goes to therapy, she doesn't need to wait in a line for hours to get to therapy and back. And the argument that you just don't need to live here if you have such issues as this just isn't reasonable. This particular resident was born on this island, lives in the house that was her parents' and after many generations of her family that have been born and died on this island, should she have to uproot from the only life she has ever known? And her adult children and grandchildren that help care for her?

Should they have to uproot and move because she can't go to the front of a ferry line?

Children have dentist, orthodontics, pediatrician etc appointments. Let's look at one of those. Orthodontics require monthly appointments to make adjustments on braces. Again, this doesn't stop because of busy traffic. If you leave at dawn, go to an appointment in Buxton, you can make it back before lunch with priority boarding. That means less school missed and less work missed. These things matter and add up.

There are many reasons residents here should have priority passes, I've covered a few and I go-e that whoever reads this, can, at least begin to have some understanding.

Thank you for your consideration.

Susan Aiken

Ocracoke resident

9/9/2026

Since 1934, North Carolina has in some form subsidized ferry service for its citizens on or near the coast. Beginning with one route over 90 years ago, the state has maintained support for ferries that now include seven routes and about 200 sailings per day. The NC Ferry Division provides transportation to parts of eastern NC that otherwise would have limited access - or none at all.

In the past four years, one state senator from Iredell County - the NC Piedmont - has undertaken as her personal campaign to deny coastal residents of taxpayer funded access to the ferries, and therefore to their homes and businesses. Sen. Vickie Sawyer's stated complaint is that if she and her constituents have to pay extra money for the express lane to go from her house on Lake Norman to a Panthers game in Charlotte, then people in eastern North Carolina should have to pay tolls for every ferry over every body of water in their commutes. Keep in mind that Sen. Sawyer has nearly infinite permutations for alternative routes from her house to anywhere in Charlotte that don't involve the express lanes or don't even involve the interstate. Everywhere else in the state, drivers have options. Here in Ocracoke, we have three routes to and from our homes, and all three of those involve a ferry. We don't have alternate routes. he included map demonstrates that on her commute to Charlotte from her Lake Norman home, Sen. Sawyer crosses at least four state maintained bridges on state-maintained

highways. NC's annual budget for bridge maintenance is roughly \$410 million - over four times the already inadequate \$70 million or so the struggling Ferry Division gets. And just this summer, Sen. Sawyer is pushing for \$300 million for improvements to the express lanes on 1-77 north of Charlotte - to make her commute even easier while she works hard to make ours at the coast even more difficult. But the discussion about the ferries is of course not about one state legislator, but rather about NC's commitment to transportation infrastructure.

For people living and working in eastern NC, particularly Ocracoke, the ferries are extensions of state highways - same as any bridge on any road anywhere else in the state. Recent legislation requires the Ferry Division to toll every route in the system by January 1, 2027. By the reasoning behind that legislation - that people using the ferries should pay their way - every bridge and every highway in the state should be tolled.

That's of course absurd, as is the notion that ferries, an integral part of NC's transportation infrastructure, should be tolled.

But we're already for now past that; state law requires the ferries to be tolled by next year. Meanwhile, we're now discussing priority boarding.

For Ocracoke residents, priority loading at the Hatteras terminals means the difference between making our appointments on time or even within a day's trip or missing them and losing time in our commute. Customarily, the Ferry Division for 40 years has

through administrative rules offered Ocracokers priority when waiting for the ferry. This convenience means that the people who live and work here can spend their time on the island and support the island's daily routines - working where you buy supplies, gifts, and groceries, pouring your beer, frying your fresh fish, taking care of your rental,

patrolling the village as law enforcement, maintaining the roads - even running the ferries - not to mention their own personal errands and basic needs. Priority at the ferry terminal supports the island.

As importantly, priority for commercial vehicles means that the island stays in supply. Everything consumed or used on the island gets here by ferry - groceries, fuel, building supplies, mail, daily shipping, every meal at every restaurant, medical supplies for the clinic. We live by the ferry. Priority boarding is critical to our life here and to the lives of visitors who rely on the residents for needs during their trips here.

NC's Ferry Division is already underfunded at \$70 million per year. Every route suffers nearly daily delays or interruptions. For Ocracoke, those delays and interruptions are more than inconveniences; unpredictability and unreliability often leave us stranded

when we need to travel for work doctor's appointments and emergencies

Ocracoke and all of eastern NC need and deserve the same reliable transportation infrastructure the rest of the state enjoys. We hope the legislature and the Ferry Division will keep fairness and commitment in mind going forward.

9/9/2026

Non-resident homeowners, here for at least half the year but at this time cannot buy a commuter pass. Seriously, i pay taxes and NC homeowners insurance. A lot of money in taxes to state of NC and do no understand why I cannot qualify for a commuter pass.

9/9/2026

COMMENTS by Ruth Fordon, local resident and property owner since 1988

I'm sure these points of discussion have already been offered many times, but there is strength in numbers so I add my voice as well.

Overall statement of concern. I have not observed Ocracoke Island being respected as a fully contributing tax paying legitimate community within the state of North Carolina since my arrival in 1988. We have been an afterthought and have always had to fight for equal concern within the state. We are located in the poorest county (Hyde) in the state and located in the ocean 23 miles from the mainland, accessible only by ferry. From recent discussions it appears that the opinion of legislators in NC is that ocean level rise will make most of Ocracoke underwater by the end of the century and has diminished interest in normal fiduciary responsibility. Historically we have not been a priority for services or legislative interest and that has only worsened over time.

Under the premise that we deserve fair treatment for our accessibility issues, I am asking for the following commonsense actions to improve ferry service between Ocracoke and Hatteras Islands:

First, Route 12 on the north end of Ocracoke is protected by sandbags from incursions by the ocean due to storms and high tide. Every winter we repeatedly observe that these sandbags are washed over or washed away, the road is undermined and accessibility to reach the ferry is closed. We lose mail service, supply deliveries, access to medical and other appointments. The ferry stops running and we have no transportation off the island from the north end or South Dock as it is named. Instead of the band aid approach of sandbags, Ocracoke needs an elevated roadway across the vulnerable location so that the ocean and sound may flow through instead of being blocked and destroying that coastal area. The cost of this solution would more than equal all the cost of repeated installation of new sandbags and roadwork.

Second I agree that the Hatteras Ferry should be tolled for visitors however those who are residents of Ocracoke or one of the many vendors servicing the island should not have to pay for passage. Toll roads in other parts of NC all have alternative routes for their local populations to bypass the tolled roads. That is not the case on Ocracoke Island. The Hatteras Ocracoke ferry route is our alternative access and main highway since the other two ferries are tolled.

Third The need for replacement as well as repair of the aging ferries needs to be managed better than it has. There needs to be money budgeted to keep the ferries operating on schedule and repairs handled with expediency. If all the ferry system is tolled then the ferries should be available as promised without the interruptions that have become rampant in the current system.

Fourth, In the case that the Hatteras Ocracoke Ferry cannot provide free access to islanders, I suggest the following:

Priority loading for locals should continue. The popularity of Ocracoke as a vacation destination will impose unreasonable wait times for ferry access which makes scheduling off island appointments very difficult if not impossible. We have had priority loading since the early 90's and there is no logical explanation why this should not continue.

If commuter passes are suggested for full access to all the ferries, I suggest that the pass be for the entire household not just one vehicle. We all have at least a car as well as a truck for large supply runs off island. It would be practical to allow either vehicle to have access to the commuter pass within a family household. If all access to and from Ocracoke is tolled I believe locals and vendors need to be given a discounted price or just keep it "no cost to locals" as a way to ensure free access. If there is going to be a commuter pass for the Hatteras Ocracoke run then there should also be the option for reservations to ensure passage for appointments etc, especially if the priority pass is eliminated.

The elephant in the room is the logistics for how to implement whatever plan is approved, especially if these listening sessions are meant to have an impact of the final plan design.

The timeline of these tolls beginning in January of 2027 is unrealistic and will just create more unnecessary stress for the Ferry Division

9/9/2026

The critical issue as I see it is priority passes for residents. I think most residents would be willing to pay for a commuter pass as long as they could also get in a priority lane. The residents of Ocracoke already deal with numerous issues and to place an additional burden of waiting in absurdly long lines to deal with normal activities of daily living, most importantly medical appointments is going way beyond what is normal to ask of anyone. The second issue concerns the way the law is currently written. If the new tolls will only pay for ferry replacement and not ferry maintenance, I do not think this is a feasible system. There is obviously not enough money in the current budget allocated to maintenance. I have no issue whatsoever with tolls, but let's use some common sense:

1. a portion of the tolls allocated for maintenance
2. A priority pass for residents (even if it's a paid commuter pass)

9/9/2026

It's not about the tolls in Ocracoke, it's all about the priority pass otherwise we have to wait forever for a trip to the beach. Provide a reservation system for Ocracoke residents.

9/9/2026

NC should fully support our unique and treasured ferry service. Recent years have seen our legislators not fund the ferry system as needed and as a result the boats and personnel have been neglected. NC has a treasure in its ferry division and our elected representatives need to recognize it. While tolling is not favorable to permanent Island residents, we can accept if the funds raised go to the upkeep of the ferry system. What cannot happen is that permanent residents cannot lose their existing priority status. We make the island run and denial of priority status would be a huge mistake on behalf of the NC congress.

9/9/2026

Commuter passes should be available to anybody like many of other tolled roads and bridges.
Priority passes should be available to part-time residents who own property.

9/9/2026

Priority Passes Please!!!

9/9/2026

Why do our elected officials hate Ocracoke. How do you justify charging one small town, Ocracoke, a toll to get to their own homes? It is flat out immoral!!! NC 12 is the State Road and we pay our fuel taxes just like everyone else. After imposing a new tax on us, you might as well be flipping us the double bird by taking away our priority passes. We'll be trapped here in the summer unable to run basic errands without adding multiple additional travel hours. I challenge any politician to come live here for a summer without a priority pass.

9/9/2026

We are frustrated because you still don't have a reliable / plan for the Hatteras ferry terminal. You are making us pay for something that isn't reliable, communicated & poorly planned. I am a student missing 2-3 full school days because of "mechanical issues" Just yesterday I missed 30 minutes of class because of a last-minute ferry amendment. We need new ferries but we also need answers to what you are doing in the long run to provide us with reliable ferry transportation.

9/9/2026

NC GS 136-89.197 states - The department shall maintain an existing alternate, comparable non-toll route corresponding to each turnpike project constructed pursuant to this article. If residents are not allotted a free route option and priority access to the hatteras ferry, myself and numerous other residents intent to bring forth a class action suit. We as residents can not function without priority access. We also should not be the only residents of NC to not have an untolled option to return/leave our homes.

9/9/2026

Losing the priority pass would mean Ocracats, Inc can no longer function!! We cannot take cats in traps on the ferry without priority! We cannot allow these animals to be in the car for an extended period of time - and we're talking HOURS waiting on a ferry.

9/9/2026

Ocracoke does not have any alternative way on or off. The residents have to travel for jury duty, doctor's appointments, school events, shopping etc. Would yo like to have to wait 2 hours to get your 85 year old mother to a doctor's appointment, or your toddler? Do you want the students that play sports asleep in class the day after a game because they got home too late. Put yourself in the shoes of the residents. Have you considered lost revenue the community will suffer? The ferry is the island's extension of Hwy 12!

9/9/2026

We support priority passes for local residents of Ocracoke

My wife and I live full time in Salisbury, NC but we have owned property and had vacation homes on Ocracoke since 2002. As a family we have been coming to Ocracoke every summer since 1993. We consider Ocracoke to be our second home. We are both deeply involved in the community with the NC Coastal Land Trust (Springer's Point), the Ocracoke Preservation Society and Ocracoke Alive and we have supported numerous nonprofits and community efforts on the island.

For as long as we have been coming to Ocracoke the full residents of Ocracoke have had access to priority passes to avoid long lines waiting for the Hatteras Ferry. This is not our full-time home, so we do not have priority passes. Instead we pay for passes on the sound ferries. Often the Hatteras ferry is the only access that islanders have to get to their doctors, dentists, critical supplies, hardware and groceries that they cannot otherwise obtain on the island and other critical services. Without the priority passes they would have to wait in long lines often for hours to get access to goods and services that I take for granted every day in Salisbury.

My wife and I are happy to pay for ferry service. But it is my understanding that if Ocracoke residents have to pay to use the ferries, they would be the only community in North Carolina to be forced to do this. I think visitors and part-time residents like us should pay and we are happy to pay, but the full-time residents should not have to, but that is my opinion.

I understand and support fees for the ferry use. The ferry system needs the financial support from these fees. At the very least the state should continue the long-established tradition of allowing Ocracoke residents to have access to priority lanes for the Hatteras Ferry. Vendors who bring goods and services can obtain priority passes. So should permanent residents of Ocracoke. This does not cost the state and should never be done away with.

9/9/2026

Allow priority passes.

We are not apposed to ferry changes

We are opposed to doing away with priority treatment for full time residents of Ocracoke.

Home address is Salisbury / island address 202 Tom Neal Road, Ocracoke 27960

9/9/2026

As a resident of Ocracoke that travels the Hatteras Ferry for work and medical, the ability to use the ferry priority pass program is most important. Without the program I cannot plan travel times to make appointment times.

9/9/2026

As a full time resident - it terrifies me that we could lose the one privilage (sic) that we rely on to access critical care for our family. Havin gto wait in line with tourists makes it impossible for us to set up any type of medical appointment or to make travel arrangements at an airport. we are grateful for our priority pass privilage (sic) - we don't take it for granted, we don't abuse it and we don't take it lightly. Douring high tourism season, this pass is crucial to our live (sic) here being sustainable. There are 850 of us - how could this possibly be too much to ask?

9/9/2026

Priority Pass for Ocracoke residents, EMS, school buses and vendors is critical!
Having to wait 2-4 hours means business will not get done. This will cause lost income to North Carolina!

9/9/2026

Dear Ferry People. This suck and I don't like this, it's not fair for people who live on the island and on Ocracoke. Why you have to do that to us who live by the ferry. You can't do this is not fair who pay taxes. We need to have thiss passes to get off Ocracoke and on Ocracoke.

9/9/2026

Residents should not have to pay for access to their homes and businesses.
PRIORITY LOADING on the ferry should be continued for residents.
All appointments for medical or otherwise are always off island!
DO NOT DROP THE PRIORITY LOADING PASSES!

9/9/2026

As a year round resident & small business owner on Ocracoke I ask that the state consider the unique reality of a community with no road connecting to the mainland. The Hatteras Ocracoke ferry is not simply a inconvenience, it's essential infrastructure for our community. Residents depend on this ferry for medical care, work, schoold, groceries, supplies and other necessities of life. The resident priority pass exists because year-round residnets have different needs than visitors. Temoving the priority creates uncertainty for the people who live year-round. I also believe that any tolling policy should recognize that Ocracoke are already contributing to the local & state economy and should not be treated like simple visitors. If the state is required to implement tolls, i ask that they find a way to protect year-round residents from being financially burdened by the transportation system we depend upon. Most importantly, I'm asking that the law be amended to preserve resident priority boarding.

9/9/2026

It just doesn't seem fair for me to have to pay to go to the store, doctor, hospital.
If we have a budget surplus, why are our ferries in such poor mechanical condition.
If I miss a doctors appointment because i do not board te ferry in time it "costs" me.

9/9/2026

With the National Park Serivce, we are here up to 6 months. There are many times we have to go to other lighthouses to work and don't have time to sit in a long line so the priority pas helps us get there on time.

9/9/2026

It is illegal to charge us to get to our home.

9/9/2026

Seniors and disabled vets get be free or at least reduced rates

9/9/2026

not everyone has internet. There are many places in NC that you cant get internet other than Starlink and that isn't affordable

9/9/2026

Some people just cannot afford these tolls.

Is there nothing available for people who are on a income that doesn't allow for this/

9/9/2026

If tolls cannot be used for day to day maintenance and wages,
what good will new ferries be if they cannot run ?

9/9/2026

Veterans who have medical appointments in MHC as well as MCAS Cherry Point should be afforded free ferry passes as a veteran perk.

9/9/2026

Residents and business owners should not have to pay to ride the Hatteras/Ocracoke ferry.

9/9/2026

I think you should consider the students who drive to school and excuse them during school times to ride the ferry for free.

9/9/2026

As a resident, my hope is to continue having priority boarding on the Hatteras ferry. Our dentist appointments, doctor's appointments and various other obligations take place in Dare County. Not being prioritized to get home in a timely manner would directly affect our livelihood and compromise our ability to function here as locals.

9/9/2026

Ferry Services should be free to NC Residents, School Busses, Businesses

9/9/2026

Please consider providing a waiver option for school students who depend upon the ferry. They already have to pay gas for driving around after the ferry ceases runs in the late afternoon. Doubling their costs will create inequitable access to essential after school involvement.

9/9/2026

I think the toll should be free to residents that are directly impacted by the ferry.

9/9/2026

Is it time to reconsider a bridge? Already we've had scheduled ferry runs offline due to maintenance issues or lack of personnel to run the ferry. How will the ferry tolls affect the ferry schedule? Will there be a guarantee of service? What will happen if there is a decline in commuters? Will this result in a closure of the ferry crossing? How cost effective will this be for NCDOT? Based on that panel the DOT provided during the meeting, 33,314 vehicles were transported during 2024-25 and 92% were residents/commuters. So, 30,649 local traffic, that only leaves 2665 non-commuters transported. That is only eighteen to nineteen thousand dollars per year from non-commuters. What is the cost of personnel to implement and operate this new proposal. Is the state going to make enough money to make it worthwhile to inconvenience these commuters? What is the proposed Return on Investment?

Our local tourism depends upon both ferries. Making the ferries too expensive may stifle tourism growth and even decrease the existing tourism. Will there be a way to validate a ferry toll pass when visiting a state museum or landmark?

Small towns such as Aurora are struggling to survive in this economy and this is just another nail in our coffin.

9/9/2026

Is it time to reconsider a bridge? Already we've had scheduled ferry runs offline due to maintenance issues or lack of personnel to run the ferry. How will the ferry tolls affect the ferry schedule? Will there be a guarantee of service? We lost our scheduled evening ferry runs several years ago, will the ferry service run 24/7 or will they implement more crossing times? How will the tolls benefit our community?

How cost effective will this be for NCDOT? Based on that panel the DOT provided during the September first meeting, 33,314 vehicles were transported during 2024-25 and of those 92% are permanent residents, basically commuters. So, 30,649 local traffic, that only leaves 2665 non-commuters transported. That is only eighteen to nineteen thousand dollars per year from non-commuters. What is the cost of personnel to implement and operate this new proposal. If they are state employees, then what is the cost in benefit packages? Is this feasible? Is the state going to make enough money to make it worthwhile to inconvenience these commuters? What is the proposed Return on Investment?

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Small towns such as Aurora are struggling to survive in this economy and this is just another nail in our coffin.

9/9/2026

Environment will degrade infrastructure rapidly, there should be a plan for frequent replacement of readers.

How will transfer take place when a car is traded mid year.

If you move will you get a refund for the remaining time. If so what verification is required.

Law makers should ensure that proper funding is in place prior to enacting a new policy. DOT is tasked with rapid implementation and funding which is never done properly or adequately. This is not DOT or ferry service issue and we trust they will do the best they can. Flexibility and lessons learned will be critical in the process. Possibly have a follow up session with the customer to address changes or challenges identified post implementation.

9/9/2026

Is it time to reconsider a bridge? Already we've had scheduled ferry runs offline due to maintenance issues or lack of personnel to run the ferry. How will the ferry tolls affect the ferry schedule? Will there be a guarantee of service? We lost our scheduled evening ferry runs several years ago, will the ferry service run 24/7 or will they implement more crossing times? How will the tolls benefit our community? Will there be more than one ferry in service for Aurora/Bayview? Will a third ferry be added to Minnesott/Cherry Branch? What will happen if there is a decline in commuters? Will this result in a closure of the ferry crossing?

How cost effective will this be for NCDOT? Based on that panel the DOT provided during the September first meeting, 33,314 vehicles were transported during 2024-25 and of those 92% are permanent residents, basically commuters. So, 30,649 local traffic, that only leaves 2665 non-commuters transported. That is only eighteen to nineteen thousand dollars per year from non-commuters. What is the cost of personnel to implement and operate this new proposal. If they are state employees, then what is the cost in benefit packages? Is this feasible? Is the state going to make enough money to make it worthwhile to inconvenience these commuters? What is the proposed Return on Investment?

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Small towns such as Aurora are struggling to survive in this economy and this is just another nail in our coffin.

9/9/2026

Full time residents to any islands that require ferry access should have no or the most minimal fees and priority boarding.

9/9/2026

Student drivers and school staff should not be required to pay fees for their passes. Student drivers are already facing high costs for driving and school attendance tends to be low without an added hindrance. School staff should also not be required to pay a fee. The state of North Carolina is already facing major staffing shortages in the school system and with Currituck being a border state to a much better paying state, creating more costs for those employees just perpetuates the issues faced by the school system.

9/9/2026

The ferry is essential for the many students and few teachers that live on Knotts Island. By tolling the ferry for those listed above, you're forcing them to pay more to travel an already long commute. I ride the ferry to and from work as a teacher at the high school and I would like to know how this is going to work for school based passengers.

9/9/2026

None

9/9/2026

There also needs to be a consideration for STUDENTS who primarily use the ferry system to commute to school.

9/9/2026

School employess and families of school aged children and children should get a free pass paid for the county to board the ferry. If the causeway is flooded or blocked to get off Knott's island, ferry would be only thing to use for work travels or something. There shouldn't be a charge for that.

9/9/2026

There needs to be an option for low-income/seniors households to have tolling fees waived or drastically reduced for their annual passes or daily commutes since this is our ONLY commute available within the state of NC outside of driving into VA. Which we cannot always rely on - neither can the School Board for Currituck Co.

9/9/2026

Keep priority passes

9/9/2026

N/A

9/9/2026

None

9/9/2026

I believe we should not charge school aged children, families with school aged children and school staff who use the ferry and reside in Currituck County.

9/9/2026

As a retired Military and State Law Enforcement,I can see the need for fees to cover ferry operations and equipment. While on Active Duty in Norfolk, I purchased my first EZPass. You could take the tunnel to the Portsmouth hospital for \$6 one way that took 20 minutes or drive around that took 1.5 hours and worry about traffic delays and closures. It was a No Brainer. The problem is that society gets complacent and thinks that they are entitled to things that started as a convenience.

9/9/2026

This ferry operation has been up and running for free for decades and to employ a fee now when everything else in the world is going up is not fair to the residents that rely on this transportation for school and work. When the ferry is already unreliable half the time. Why punish the residents and students more?

9/9/2026

As property owner who has to pay home,land, highway ...then pay a ferry chg to do our business in Currituck . It's not fair to penalize us NC a tax payers/ homeowners . When we purchase our home the use of the ferry was one of the main reasons we chose our location. After all we pay taxes to.

9/9/2026

This is silly to charge a toll when service is already unpredictable

9/9/2026

Have a separate line for paying tolls at the terminal from those lining up with reservations that are pre-booked / paid in advance (on-line bookings). This would be most important at the Hatteras Ferry Terminal to avoid traffic jams (especially in Summer months). Going forward, it could be useful for NCDOT to allow use of toll payment transponders (EZPass) and Pay-By-Plate options for vehicles without advance reservations.

9/9/2026

Many residents of Dare and Currituck are barely making a living wage. Adding another fee to their already stressed budgets isn't fair. Locals should receive free service and let all the tourists that seem to have enough money to vacation in the very expensive OBX pay tolls. This could hurt the Hatteras tourism. Remember our old folks are being priced out of their homes by all the people moving here and building these mini-mansions. Taxes just keep raising and putting old folks with a choice between their house and their medications. Sad.

9/9/2026

Students should not have to pay a toll to get to school

9/9/2026

My son is devastated

9/9/2026

Charging fees will make it more challenging for Currituck Schools staff and students, especially those who regularly travel between locations.

9/9/2026

To not provide a priority pass option for residents is ridiculous. It will be impossible for residents to get to necessary medical appointments, etc.

9/9/2026

PLEASE do NOT charge tolls for ferry transportation. People/residents on fixed income cannot afford anything more to pay. Let tourists fund the charges, IF NCDOT must charge for ANY tolls.

9/9/2026

This scheme makes no sense from a cost/benefit perspective. The cost of collecting tolls outweighs the revenues unless the toll cost is so large that it poses a barrier to use. So poorly thought out!

9/9/2026

As a low income family that are residents of Knotts Island adding a fee cuts off my children from attending any school functions that we would need to drive to including county sports and county events too.

9/9/2026

For a ferry that operates primarily for public school access...the mere fact charging students and families of students is ridiculous. Take a percentage of sales or food tax, grants, etc. And it's not just school. School sports. Country Recreational Youth Sports practices and games. Court, jury duty, permits and county offices. Many people don't have access to the Internet on Knott's Island or choose to not have a cell phone.

If the causeway is flooded are we not going to allow people to leave on the ferry unless they pay?

Charge the non-residents.

When I'm visiting a town or city I don't mind paying a toll or fee because it benefits the people there. But it's poor practice to charge your own people for basic necessities that have always been free.

No idea if this will get read but I cannot make the public meeting due to volunteering as a rec coach for baseball.

9/9/2026

Please keep the Currituck Knotts Island Ferry at no cost or low affordable cost for all residents

9/9/2026

We pay enough in taxes, we should not have to pay to use a ferry that is our only means for direct connection with the mainland.

9/9/2026

Charge tourists, but we locals cannot afford any more tolls, especially daily!! This is highway robbery and not at all considering those who voted you into office and trusted you to take care of our residents!

9/9/2026

As a 22 year resident of Ocracoke and a veteran National Board Certified Teacher from Ocracoke School. I am writing this letter to express my curiosity and concern. It is unclear to me why there would not be a priority pass for residents. This is an essential component of our ability to function while living in a place that requires a ferry for access to our basic needs. For Example. Dr appointments, school events, emergencies, veterinarian visits, groceries, medical needs, etc... This will create what feels like an unnecessary burden for those of us that live here. I do not believe this is the intention of the tolls proposed for the ferries. Please address my concerns.

9/9/2026

Tolls will deter visitors from coming if set too high. Maximum should be \$15 one way, same as other ferries. Commuter passes should include Hatteras Ferry with Swan Quarter + Cedar Island. Reservations for residents must include priority pass. Without priority loading, residents will not be able to go to appointments, school games, shopping, working, without fear of being late or if coming back home, not having to wait in long, long lines. Residents will be forced to consider selling homes and leaving Ocracoke. Please take into account what no priority pass will do to our island and our homes!!!

9/9/2026

1. Would a rebate be possible for permanent residents of Ocracoke? They pay \$150 then 3 months later get a rebate of \$145.
2. Have a dedicated ferry just for residents of Ocracoke.

9/9/2026

The loss of the priority pass: This is the only place in the world where you can miss a dental appointment by 30 seconds!

Without the priority pass, we will no longer be able to schedule appointments and expect to get up and back in one day.

With having to book certain doctors 6 months out, it will be more expensive with motel rooms to guarantee getting off the island.

9/9/2026

Priority passes are a must for island residents traveling to and from the Outer Banks! Residents often utilize OBX Hospital and it's physicians, radiology and imaging services, therapy, specialists etc. to meet their health care needs. If they are unable to depend on boarding the ferries at designated times, they may miss appointments, delay diagnosis and treatment, or be discouraged from following through with treatment plans due to frustrations of waiting in long lines, up to hours in the peak season, to return home to their families and jobs. I support vendors being able to use the priority pass line because residents need their products and services that may be unavailable on the island, but residents having the same privilege is just as important and should continue!

9/9/2026

Don't bother priority passes. I have to go off island at least once a month to take my dad and/or mom to doctors appointments. If the Ocracoke/Swan Quarter Ferry schedule changes or cancels, it just leave the Ocracoke/Hatteras ferry for transportation. Without a priority pass, there is no guarantee when or if I can get off the island to make their appointments. Once a month appointments do not include my own medical, dental and other business that needs to be taken care of.

Commuter passes on Ocracoke/Swan Quarter and Ocracoke/Cedar Island are fairly priced and easy to use for on time appointments as long as the ferries are running.

9/9/2026

Tolls on all Ocracoke ferries should be the same amount \$15.00 one way. Commuter passes should be able to be used on all Ocracoke ferries. Priority passes must remain in place and load first. Ferries are the only way on and off for residents

9/9/2026

Please consider issuing priority passes for permanent residents. Also, consider discounts on tolling for permanent residents who are retired and living on a fixed income.

Thank you

9/9/2026

9. What should NCDOT do to make implementation work better for you or your community?

Other - keep priority passes for resident

10. What concerns or suggestions do you have regarding passes, accounts, or customer support?

Other - priority

I think tolling is unfair to Ocracoke Island as it is our only option. Especially residents!! And, then to not continue to offer priority passes for residents is unbelievable.

If I thought for one second that tolling would improve the system/service I may not be so against it, but we all know there is no toll going to improve our service.

9/9/2026

The continuation of the priority pass program is critical for full time residents of Ocracoke. I already purchase the commuter pass for the sound/ferries so I am okay if the \$150 annual fee also goes towards the Ocracoke -> Hatteras route. The priority pass however needs to be maintained at the same residency restrictions, however, and be open only to full-time residents of Ocracoke, not "non-resident property owners" or Dare County residents. Our vehicles are registered in Hyde County and we pay Hyde County property taxes on them. Allowing people from off island to purchase a priority pass will mitigate any benefits to actual full-time residents of reducing wait times to get to essential services such as supermarkets, dentists, and medical appointments, none of which exist on the island. Working class folks seeking emergency treatment in Nags Head at the E.R. should not be forced to wait in lines of hours of tourists from out of state or wealthy second home owners who schedule their medical appointments and shopping outside of Eastern N.C.

9/9/2026

Ocracoke is my home, my doctors, dentists, eye doctor are all in Nags Head and specialists I see are in Vigrinia Beach. Without a priority pass I would not be able to continue to see and get home the same day. I have lived here 40 years adn my husband was born and raised here. I am too old to move and start over elsewhere and on a fixed income.

Don't have an issue charging tourist as long as it is reasonable.

9/9/2026

1. Removing priority passes from Ocracoke residents - how is that going to help the ferry division? Is this threat a distraction from the tolling issue ... we'll figure we WON something when you don't take them away.
2. I posed this question to Roy Surratt when he visited the island recently - is the law (statute) still on the books that states "everyone in NC has at least one free egress from their home"? If it's still on the books, aren't you breaking the law by charging legal residents of Ocracoke for the Hatteras ferry?
3. I don't have a problem with charging visitors for the Hatteras-Ocracoke ferry. They can afford a small charge (certainly not more than \$5 each way) and that income might allow the ferry division to make needed repairs to ferries. If you've been keeping track recently, you'll notice that the Hatteras-Ocracoke ferry has been on an amended schedule more often than not. Ridiculous enough for a free service, but won't be an acceptable service when it costs money!
Maybe you need to put a fee on the Bonner bridge (EZpass) and then get lots more money from anyone/everyone who visits the Outer Banks. Would Dare County like that? Probably not ... but the residents and business owners of Ocracoke Island count on income from visitors to survive. How is the fee for the Hatteras-Ocracoke ferry going to impact the visitors to Ocracoke? Will they still visit or will they spend their time and money visiting somewhere other than NC beaches?
4. Do you really believe you can set a sensible plan in place by Jan 1, 2027 to collect a fee for the ferry? How many new bonded workers will the state have to hire? Can't just do EZ pass because not everyone has that ... Can't just use CC's because not everyone uses credit cards. Charging both directions? How much will it cost to build something on Ocracoke (and man it) to collect money ... issue tickets ... collect tickets? You probably don't have time to set this in motion. It will be a disaster ... ! can see it now
5. Not all the residents of Ocracoke can afford to buy a commuter pass for all three ferries. There are plenty of elderly folks here to simply don't have the money to spend.
Just implement a toll starting in 2028. Give yourself a chance to make it work. Every car that has a priority pass is free.
So simple. Sensible ... that's the word ...
William and Leslie Monticone
Full time island residents since 1995.

9/9/2026 

Maintain the boats better including the passenger ferry. There is a lot of time available in the off season where each boat can be serviced from bow to stern and made ready for the coming season. Staffing - pay increase wages to be able to fill positions so that is not an issue to not run. Staff checking pass and licenses need to move non priority out of the priority lane, they need to not give out incorrect updates on the running of the boat! The boat should be fueled as soon as they dock and not when it is time to leave delaying the trip The priority pass is necessary for our day to day living. We need to be able to leave timely for appointments and such and not have to wait hours in line to return If we can not get back business will be without staff or not be able to run! The priority pass is essential to the lives of all residents, vendors and basic needs on the island.

9/9/2026

9. What should NCDOT do to make implementation work better for you or your community?

Other - leave residents priority pass

10. What concerns or suggestions do you have regarding passes, accounts, or customer support?

Other - Priority

Ocracoke residents can not do without priority passes.

Although tolling may not bother visitors the local/residents should be exempt.

9/9/2026

9. What should NCDOT do to make implementation work better for you or your community?

Other - not take away our passes for priority

I think taking away a residences priority and vendors priority pass is the dumbest thing you could do. If you wanna charge visitors a toll fine, but not residents and property owners. You couldn't charge a high enough toll to do all the improvements yall need.

9/9/2026

4. How do you expect ferry tolls to impact your daily travel or activities?

I'm not sure yet - Priority pass?

9/9/2026

Priority passes are the lifelines to the residents of Ocracoke in todays world. The Hatteras Ferry is essential for our business, medical, and personal needs, our lives will be greatly affected without a priority pass. I am in hopes those in power & making decisions will show mercy & use common sense in making decisions that will impact the residents & the island's future!

9/9/2026

Priority passes are very important.

Do commuter passes include a vehicle over 20 feet. We have a camper van at 20' 4" and have gotten a double pass for the last 2 years and it has worked well.

There is a glitch in the system as the Swan Quarter ferry will list 25 single spaces and no double spaces available.

9/9/2026

If you truly want to fund toll bridge at Oregon Inlet.

- Is this legal to toll residents with no way home?
- The fee should reflect taxpayers that are full-time residents
- The removal of the priority pass will devastate residents -

9/9/2026

The resident priority lane for Hatteras/Ocracoke must remain - it is very important in scheduling medical appts.

It would solve a big problem if you returned to the previous short Hatteras ferry route - the current circuitous route wastes tons of fuel and time - the foolish dredge islands make the sound extremely turbulent and cause unnecessary damage. The original route channel may be difficult to maintain but the time and cost savings should make up for it - put the dredge on the back of the islands and sell it to the residents - it can also be used for maintaining beach access ramps -

9/9/2026

9. What should NCDOT do to make implementation work better for you or your community?

Other - No toll for residents

If there is a toll and priority taken from true residents of Ocracoke Island it is going to be truly devastating to people like myself who have multiple doctors appointments a week including having to get PT. There should never be a thought of taking passes from true residents of Ocracoke. The financial burden and toll it is going to take on the residents will be catastrophic finally. Residents have already started putting their homes up for sale because of medical concerns. Not giving residents is at times a life and death concern.

Myself and my family pay \$500.00 a yr. for the multi pass we should not have to pay for any other passes. You need to reconsider your choices on this issue.

9/9/2026

Ferry consistency is the most important thing that needs to be better maintained. If tolls support this goal, I think they will be welcomed. The biggest hindrance is taking away priority boarders - residents/businesses depend on ferry access for daily tasks and needs - there is no alternate option.

Priority boarding is necessary to keep the culture and reason for tourism going and thriving. This needs to be open to not only residents, but others who travel to/from work and other business related travel. I personally utilize the ferry 2x month to come work at local/family businesses. Businesses will struggle to maintain workforce as well as do standard daily business functions if they are subject to the same wait time as people coming for leisure and recreation and with the expectation of being well served by those businesses now unable to keep up.

9/9/2026

There is no other way to access Ocracoke but by ferry so as has been the way for 30 plus years local residents should remain free and have priority loading!! It makes no sense to require older residents to wait in line for 2 or more hours to go to a doctor's appointment or school activities to do the same. The tolls are not the worst part of this but the fees could be replaced by a 1 cent addition to the gas tax!! The full time residents of Ocracoke deserve to be heard on this matter!! Would whoever is reading this want their sick grandmother or child to have to wait for a ferry for 2 or more hours to see a doctor - dentist - or for a personal trip to shop - attend your child's sports games, etc. Please consider keeping the priority loading!!!

9/9/2026

Ferry service has been increasingly unpredictable or sporadic over the years. "Amended" schedules have almost become the norm. Very hard to count on getting to appointments in a timely fashion.

9/9/2026

4. How do you expect ferry tolls to impact your daily travel or activities?

Significant impact on my ability to travel - This is contingent on whether or not residents can have priority loading or not

1. There are not enough employees to run the boats. How will you be able to staff the boats and the ticket collection at Hatteras?

2. Priority for local Ocracoke residents is critical

- Employees will not be able to go to a dentist, doctor, veterinarian etc. + get back in time for an evening shift
- Parents won't be able to follow the school bus to watch their kids athletic games etc.

3. Quality of service issues (hospitality)

- On the long ferries there used to be working vending machines, coffee pots, no furniture was broken and roped off, elevators worked.

How about taking pride in hospitality to visitors- instead of treating them like an inconvenience

- Communication with the people waiting in line when the schedule changes. Needs to improve
- Boats need to be better maintained, continuous operation issues + the boats are not painted, they are rusty + dirty
- At times the temperatures in the lobby is unbearable - set to 61 or 62 in the Sound ferries - so you have to choose between baking outside or freezing inside
- Not good for children or the elderly

*Another suggestion: Work with Federal Congress to get Army Corps of Engineers to dredge the short route back for Hatteras: 35-40 min. for crossing instead of 1 hr 10 min would move more people + save fuel

9/9/2026

Most of us who live on Ocracoke understand we will need to pay now for the Hatteras ferry, and that is warranted to help replace the fleet + plan for the future. However - we must keep our priority passes. This is our lifeline + our livelihoods. Please reinstate this even if we have to pay a yearly fee. Taking this away will cause a lot of problems, beyond just an inconvenience.

9/9/2026

The Federal "Blue Ridge Parkway" is free cause it bringing in tourist and their \$ -

I feel equity come to play -

The mountain part of NC has their own seasonal expenses bridges, tunnels + snow removal ->

The coast has few of these but the ferrys bring in tax dollars from out of state tourists.

The Corolla bridge to the mainland (proposed) has cost the state of NC 34 million and not a shovel has moved. ->

9/9/2026

5. What impacts to you think your community might experience?

Do not toll residents!! Preserve the priority pass program

7. What payment methods would be most convenient for you?

Oher: No tolls for residents

9. What should NCDOT do to make implementation work for you or your community?

Priority passes for residents!!

9/9/2026

- This might not address whether or not tolling occurs, but how can Ocracoke become the only community in NC where residents will be charged to access our homes, and to leave our homes even in the event of emergencies?? WHY will we now be expected to pay the taxes that every other resident pays & to additionally pay a toll to travel to and from home.

* Your choice of wording, "no practical driving alternative" is an insult. Have you heard of Ocracoke? You should visit us sometime.

2. A priority pass is NOT a convenience or a special privilege, it is ESSENTIAL! When residents are asked to wait in the sometimes hours-long ferry lines - the economy on the island will slow - not to mention the inability of residents to schedule and attend appointments.

* PRESERVE THE PRIORITY PASS PROGRAM

9/9/2026

I have contacted my state representative + senator numerous times regarding the ferries, tolls, schedules, etc. Keith Kidwell has responded. Norman Sanderson NEVER has.

I am completely against the tolls. I want what every other NC resident has, a way home that does not cost more than I already pay in taxes. This is quite possibly illegal.

Priority passes - I know the legislation states that vendors will have priority loading but it does not address it for residents. If it does not specifically outlaw it, then why can't we have priority loading? It already takes a 5-6 hour round trip to go to Food Lion in Avon - I can't imagine what will happen w/out priority loading. How will we get to doctor appointments or the dentist? Will we need to leave home hours ahead of our appointments to get there in time? How is this even practical? I am retired, but what about people who are still working? How will they manage shopping and appointments?

Without priority loading, we will likely have to move away. We will cope with it for a while but at some point I will grow weary of the extra hours spent traveling to and from, managing our pets for long days of travel, keeping groceries cold, etc.

Also I have read concerns about how much money will be generated, how many years of ferry tolls it will take to replace a ferry (does the "Education Lottery" ring a bell?), and how much the commuter will increase in July of 2028.

Economic impact - Ocracoke is economically + culturally important, it is unique in NC - we deserve not only a reliable ferry but good communication - something that is sorely lacking. The ferry toll and the poor service will result in fewer day trippers and less money coming into our community.

Bottom line - I deserve what NC residents have. I have paid taxes for over 50-55 years and I am not being represented. Without priority loading, we will likely have to leave the home + community we love. We are very unhappy.

9/9/2026

4. How do you expect ferry tolls to impact your daily travel or activities?

The priority pass cancellation impacts us tremendously.

People who live on Ocracoke require priority loading at Hatteras Inlet as has been the case for many years now. Can you imagine having to drive to your own city limit, being stopped and told to wait 2-3 hours before proceeding to your destination. That is the situation being forced on Ocracoke residents by the legislators -

9/9/2026

9. What should NCDOT do to make implementation work better for you or your community?

Ensure priority transportation for island residents

Take time to fine tune the priority system for residents, to make sure there is not fraud

Notification system says when there is a ferry schedule interruption to click link for specific ferries see Ferry Status + it does not give you the amended schedule -

Concern for seniors without internet access

Explore alternative funding such as - increase the gas tax by 1 cent - put together an alternative funding packages

Study how other ferry services are financed and present it to Bd of Transportation + General Assembly

9/9/2026

So many here are saying the same thing. Toll us yes. The Priority Pass must stay. It's a make or break for Ocracoke

9/9/2026

No tolls! Free access to full-time residents.

9/9/2026

Tolling and predictability of ferry schedules have no relationship to one another. Tolling is not even an issue to me as not enough ferries are being run to begin with. As soon as the Hatteras Terminal has 5 or 6 lines every morning they go onto an amended schedule and miraculously come off of it after everyone has turned around and gone back into Dare County. The Director & Assistant Directors office need to be located at the Hatteras ferry terminal, as it is the most travelled route and needs the most leadership at this moment. The FINS system is super helpful in the morning so we know to send employees home for a slow day again.

9/9/2026

9. What should NCDOT do to make implementation work better for you or your community?

Other - Allow priority passes for year round residents of Ocracoke.

The ferries are a part of the road for Ocracoke residents. We use them for everyday conveniences mainland people take for granted. Priority passes are important for us to get to and from appointments, shopping, our kids' games, and more.

9/9/2026

NCGS 136-89.197 Requires NCDOT to maintain an existing, alternative, comparable nontoll route corresponding to each Turnpike project, (currently in Ocracoke the Hatteras/Ocracoke Ferry). We request that you follow the law by maintaining the current, legally required, existing alternative.

The \$3-10 million estimated cost of implementing tolls is redundant and a waste of taxpayer dollars. The 41 cents/gal. state gas tax, as well as the federal taxes and subsidies, is sufficient to meet all NCDOT needs.

Priority passes for Ocracoke residents are necessary for residents to maintain the same access to stores, medical facilities, etc. afforded to every other resident of North Carolina.

9/9/2026

This is the only "free" & quickest way on/off island especially for residents. Residents travel to work, school, medical, food & other supplies. Without priority boarding for residents, getting any of these done will be impossible especially with long waits. I am disabled and it is imperative, I be able to make doctor appointments without having to go a day before & pay to stay somewhere.

9/9/2026

Priority passes for residents should NOT be revoked if you intend for this island to "stay open" and generate the tax revenue it has contributed to county & state.

Implementing a toll so quickly, without a pilot program, or researching other avenues to generate revenue (i.e. \$0.10-1.00 tax raise on fuel) so all of NC residents are contributing... I worry of how this may impact visitors and residents... I am open to a toll, I just fear it actually improving the ferry system (too many workers, lack of communication & efficiency) <- right now and that a toll would take years to have a true impact for immediate issues.

9/9/2026

This service should continue to be funded by the county/state as long as there is no middle/high school on this side of the water.

9/8/2026

N/A

9/8/2026

No tolls!

9/8/2026

Hopefully this will improve service

9/8/2026

None

9/8/2026

Reducing accessibility for those to travel is never a good idea.

9/8/2026

NA

9/8/2026

I think the residents of Ocracoke should always have priority boarding.

9/8/2026

Could an RFID like EZ Pass be used to speed up the process?

9/8/2026

We own a house on Ocracoke which is rented out but we are down there several times a year. I am worried about the fees that residents may pay. I am also concerned about the fees for the visitors as that will impact my house rentals. Please make sure that any changes are well communicated to the public.

9/8/2026

Cost of ferry coun limit support of businesses on Ocracoke

Prorate the fees on size of vehicles

if use is 80% visitors, charge the visitors.

Consider exemption for residents of Hatteras supporting businesses in off season on Ocracoke.

9/8/2026

Imperative that the year-round residents are given free year-round priority passes.

9/8/2026

For residents, charging once for a pass that is inner changeable from one vehicle to the next would assist in cost to use the ferry, especially for those who have more than 1 vehicle.

Not charging during commuting hours. Law says to charge but doesn't specify you have to charge every hour of the ferry working day. Does charging confirms the ferry schedule will be operational? At what point, if the ferries are not working per schedule, will there be a refund offer due to breach of contract? How will payment be identified to not delay ferry service at the terminals?

9/8/2026

Keep them as is. Had no complaints. Driving cost up will slow tourism down as it is hard enough for a vacation on limited resources.

9/8/2026

This should be free for locals

9/8/2026

This will be a tax on the locals. You must make it free for the locals who use this daily and have for many years. Increase the costs to the vacationers.

9/8/2026

Retention of priority pass for Ocracoke residents is a must.

Island residents w/o priority pass should not be charged a ferry fee as they already subsidize the ferries in their auto and fuel taxes.

9/8/2026

Place any cost burden on the non-residents. Do not increase costs or access for residents, business owners or vendors.

9/8/2026

The ferry system is a great asset to NC. Residential passes would be a great addition.

9/8/2026

DONT TOLL NC RESIDENTS!

9/8/2026

No comments

9/8/2026

na

9/8/2026

North Carolina residents should not be charge the same as out of state # hunting license

9/8/2026

This is basically a tax on residents.

9/8/2026

If toll is implemented, Everyone must pay

9/8/2026

Read Greg Piner's letter, Oriental resident

9/8/2026

9. What should NCDOT do to make implementation work better for you or your community?

All of it!!!

10. What concerns or suggestions do you have regarding passes, accounts, or customer support?

Upgrade all of it!!

9/8/2026

Na

9/7/2026

This is completely unfair to Ocracoke residents! Highway 12 should not be a toll road and Ocracoke residents should have a fee free way to reach essential services like doctors without paying extra do that. Do you have to pay a fee to drive on the road to get to your doctor? There is no other public community in the state of North Carolina where you HAVE to pay a toll to go to the doctor or get to work or school. At the very very minimum Ocracoke residents MUST have a priority pass, but in my opinion the Ocracoke-Hatteras ferry should remain free for all because otherwise you are making Highway 12 a toll road and Ocracoke a private community like Bald Head Island. And to be clear, as a tourist, I have no problem paying for a ferry, but residents should not have to.

9/7/2026

Priority boarding passes should remain in effect for Ocracoke residents. There is NO OTHER OPTION than the ferry.

9/7/2026

I'm concerned for the residents on Ocracoke. They should have priority over vistors/tourists in order to carry-on their business operations, etc.

9/7/2026

This toll is unfair to local residents. The highway is a continuation oh Rt. 306, not an express option or HOV. For representatives in larger areas to impose this unfair tax on the citizens of ENC is totally inappropriate and unfair.

9/7/2026

Just keep the residents in mind on having to leave the island for personal or business reasons. Also keeping tourists in mind and not drive them away from wanting to visit the amazing island.

9/7/2026

Free access to Ocracoke, required by law, is currently Rt. 12 from Hatteras. Retain the free access to all or provide and alternative.

9/7/2026

none

9/7/2026

I love ocracoke, but having to pay everytime i come for a visit will affect my ability to spend time one the island

9/7/2026

Legislature passed this without any regard to blue collar workers going to and from work. Shame on you for passing illegal legislation. 306 is a state road and not. Allowed to be tolled.

9/7/2026

The ferry I use frequently is a 20 minute ride. This route, Minnesott Beach to Cherry Point, is considered a highway for those living on both sides of the river. The toll is inefficient and will cost more money than it will make.

9/7/2026

Priority boarding for residents was not specifically mentioned in the previous law yet NCDOT/Ferry Division understood the need and implemented priority passes for many years. The new law effective Jan. 1, 2027 also does not specifically grant or prohibit priority passes for residents, so why now is the department discontinuing them?

9/7/2026

Please consider whether any resident using any of the ferry services has an alternate way to get to their HOME!!!!!!

9/7/2026

Hopefully, all monies collected will be used for and by the ferry service. None of the monies should go to the state general fund.

9/7/2026

Ferry is not reliable enough to charge an annual fee.

If you are a daily user and the ferry is not running Will there be a refund?

9/7/2026

I am Frequent visitor to Ocracoke, 2-3 times a year for multiple weeks. Feel strongly that the Ocracoke residents, homeowner or rental residents should have easy, non-wait ferry access. That is their only access for home supplies, medical care, business appts, etc

The frequent last minute cancelations for mechanical, staffing, unscheduled Coast Guard inspections is not acceptable.

9/7/2026

This is the ONLY way to access the islands especially those who reside and work there, they need to be able to make a living without the government trying to reap money from them!! And they need to be able to access medical care when needed without the extra burden this will cause them. This is a continuation of route 12, therefore should NOT become a Toll road!!

9/7/2026

N/A

9/7/2026

Nothing additional.

9/7/2026

Priority pass open to non residents but property owners

Ensure priority pass lane remains open

Hatteras to Ocracoke ferry needs to be tolled, majority out of state tags not paying bc taxes

Add a 7pm swan quarter or cedar Island ferry

9/7/2026

Funding reliable ferries without mechanical issues

9/7/2026

You should retain residents' priority pass use. They live on Ocracoke and must be given priority to come and go.

9/7/2026

Keep priority boarding for full-time residents

9/7/2026

To get rid of priority boarding for the residents of Ocracoke is an awful way to treat Ocracoke residents. They should have priority because life is difficult enough on the island without the hassle of not knowing if you are going to get on the ferry. We really appreciate the hard working people of Ocracoke that make vacationing there memorable. They deserve to be treated with respect!

9/7/2026

Residents should retain their priority loading .

9/7/2026

Residents and those who use the ferry system as part of their regular commutes should be given priority and be provided yearly passes at a cheaper cost than those of us who are just tourist. I feel for those who use the ferries like Cherry Point to just get to work being charged, maybe charge them \$50/year so they can get to work.

9/7/2026

Beaufort County is a poor County. The Ferry is the only way to the other side without a long drive thru Washington, NC and there is no night service. The drive to ECUHEALTH Multispecialty Clinic is 65 miles for us. This denies us access to churches, friends, and businesses. Many business will not cross the River from the north shore of the County. The price of gas, diesel, and groceries is sky high with no relief in sight. There is no money for most of us workers and retirees to pay for Ferry Tolling Fees. Ridership will dwindle or disappear and the rationale for the Ferry Service for Aurora/Bayview will disappear closing the service down. The Cherry Branch Minnesott may also disappear. There is no money for this. You will kill the Ferry Service on the Pamlico and Neuse

9/7/2026

Priority Boarding for Ocracoke residents must remain intact

9/7/2026

Concerned about Ocracoke residents, businesses, vendors, medical, tourists.

9/7/2026

The ferry is a life-line for the residence of Ocracoke. Don't charge them or their vendors.

9/7/2026

Residents should have 1st priority boarding.

9/7/2026

\$20 fee per car. No fee for residents!

9/7/2026

Hatteras Ocracoke vehicle ferry - a small fee per vehicle like \$20 would be acceptable. Don't make residents pay!

9/7/2026

N/A

9/7/2026

I firmly believe that residents, business owners, employees, temporary workers, and delivery drivers who reside in Ocracoke or frequently travel there should be excluded from paying tolls. Also, any toll for visitors should not exceed \$5 as this could severely reduce travel to Ocracoke which relies heavily on tourism, including daytrippers as well as vacationers.

9/7/2026

The residents of Ocracoke should always have a priority and should not have to pay a fee!

9/7/2026

We are frequent visitors to Ocracoke island and have been for years. We plan to move there in the near future. My main concern is the possible reduction of tourists visiting the island and that impact on the local economy.

9/7/2026

Cost limit listed is for Cherry Branch/Minnesott and Bayview/Aurora. Will be willing to pay higher for Ocracoke routes.

9/7/2026

Commuter pass for residents a must

9/7/2026

Residents of the islands should be exempt, especially if the ferry is the only way on and off the island. As a visitor I will happily pay but highly disagree with charging residents.

9/7/2026

No additional comments

9/7/2026

I have always been happy with the ferry service and the people that operate it, they've always been kind and go out of their way to help. I just want to make sure the residents of Ocracoke are taken care of as a priority in any future matter with new changes. I live off the island and understand that it's a privilege to visit, so I have no complaints about what it takes to get me there. But these residents are what matter the most, they have no choice in the matter and need exceptions.

9/7/2026

Increase the gas tax half of a percent. No one will notice and the revenue would be much higher.

9/7/2026

If this has to go through, I should be able to buy a pass that I can transfer from one car to another. I can only drive one at a time. I should not have to buy a pass for each vehicle. In other words, the pass should go with me in what ever vehicle I may be driving that day - I have 4 vehicles registered to me.

Also need to use system such as ez pass.

9/7/2026

I fully understand that toll funds would facilitate repair and operating cost, however the coastal counties already have a significant tax increase coming in 2027. A large majority of persons are elderly or disabled. This will have implications on them being able to reach their caregiver or Dr. Taking the long route adds over an hour to the commute. More gas ..more time more money.

There will also be a hardship on those that rely on the ferry for work at Cherry Point. The wages here have not caught up to the expenses it's just an added bill for those that barely scrape by

9/7/2026

I am a former resident who visits regularly. Island residents must have Priority.

9/7/2026

I feel like with the "mechanical" issues of our ferries we would be better off to build a bridge. There are mechanical issues daily that alter the ferrys original schedules.

9/7/2026

residents should ride free with permit.

$500 \times 150 = 75,000$

Does not help budget

9/7/2026

No tolls

9/7/2026

Consider:

military

schools

small businesses

seniors - no fee

flexible passes for family

trailers?

impact on economy, labor expenses

Pamlico - lowest hourly wage in state

Cherry Point/other services like medical - adds expenses

ferry is already unreliable

everyone in the state shares transportation expenses all over the state. We pay for bridges, road maintenance, highways that we do not use. We are being punished at the whim of western NC senators. ENC is the poorest section of the state. We are already struggling.

9/7/2026

The ferry should remain the way it is. With the raising cost of things we the people will not be able to afford to come across and business will have to go out of business due to not a lot of people traveling to bring in revenue

9/7/2026

Visitors and tourists already pay high prices to visit the community and help support local economy with shopping, lodging dinning. I feel you are going to drastically effect the residents with decrease in visitors to.the island by charging for ferry. Also it will effect the residents who have to leave the island on a regular basis for work, school, shopping.

9/7/2026

IF tolls are added and passes available - the public should be able to EXPECT a RELIABLE ferry schedule, which currently it is NOT. Maintenance nearly every day causing half the daily runs to stop? For a free service, sure. For a paid service, unacceptable.
Online payment via a QR would be the most accessible for most users IF there is cell service - which there usually is not.

9/7/2026

There should be no tolls for residents.

9/7/2026

There should be no toll for residents.

9/7/2026

Use NCEZPass since this is a state road!

9/6/2026

The Cherry Branch ferry is a commuter ferry - on a state road. Use NC EZpass!

9/6/2026

A bridge would mean a needed back door to Cherry Point

9/6/2026

Read Greg Piner's comments on TownDock- <https://towndock.net/guest-columnist/the-ferry-problem-a-72-cent-solution> We already pay property and gas taxes towards the ferries. Charging tolls, especially to locals, is a double tax and needs to be reconsidered.

9/6/2026

I'm not paying money for the current delay everyday service that the ferries provide today. If it was communicated how the tolls would pay for new ferries with timelines, folks might well be in better favor to pay these tolls.

9/6/2026

None

9/6/2026

Do not put tolls on any currently free ferry route. Costs may be assigned to NC state highway funding or motor fuel tax.

9/6/2026

Build a bridge

9/6/2026

I rely on the ferry to commute to teach at Arapahoe Charter School. I already have a long commute to dedicate my skills to this rural community. Adding a toll responsibility may make me rethink my investment into pamlico county and search for a job closer to home. I am not the only educator that relies on the ferry to reach that school and the potential loss of qualified teachers should be considered. Perhaps a teacher or public servant pass at a discounted rate.

9/6/2026

None

9/6/2026

NA

9/6/2026

Like payment to NC Quick Pass, EZ-Pass, etc.

9/6/2026

Discounts for seniors, active duty military and veterans would be nice. Might buy a pass for a full year then. Ferry has been very unreliable. Will this make it more reliable?

9/6/2026

Build a bridge

9/6/2026

Biggest concern is that the local people should not have to pay to get to their county government or other services when they are over one hour away from Knight Island and you have to drive through Virginia Beach and Chesapeake to get to Currituck County. There should be a no fee requirement for all local residence. They should be able to get a sticker or pass that would be a fixed to their car and allowed to board at no cost. Our school children should also have the same right even if they are driving and not on a school bus.

9/6/2026

None

9/6/2026

High fees will discharge visitors. This is how the people on the island makes their living.

9/6/2026

Ocracoke is part of the Hatteras Island Baseball league. Kids from Hatteras Island go play games in Ocracoke. Now families could be paying \$40 (based on what we're hearing the toll will be) for their kid to play a little league baseball game! Who else in NC has to pay \$40 to take their kid to a little league baseball game. For middle and high school sports, parents and families are almost going to be forced to buy the annual pass of it's \$40 round trip otherwise because if you go 4 times to watch sports, it'll be cheaper. However it's ridiculous to think we have to pay an additional \$150 to go watch our kids play sports! Again who else in C is doing this?

9/6/2026

Citizens are already taxed to cover this service. We should not be taxed again. This will affect many citizens access to get off Knotts Island when roads are flooded, which is frequent with storms. This will prevent me from accessing the island to provide hospice care as a nurse as I refuse to pay a toll for something our taxes should cover.

9/5/2026

Shame on anyone who implements this de facto tax increase. A fee or a toll is nothing more than a tax implemented by a socialist government.

9/5/2026

My expectations are that any funds generated through ferry tolls will be minuscule when compared to the tax money spent to collect it.

9/5/2026

First of all, in this economy, we are already losing on EVERY front.
How dare NC try and nickel and dime NC residents even further for a long established service that should come out of our already paid taxes. Where is this fare money going, specifically??? Who is managing it? This is an affront and an injustice to people who choose to reside on the islands who pay taxes but are required to use these services to travel off the islands for goods and services.
I think this is going to KILL tourism and residency. It is a HUGE step backwards in the benefits of living and traveling to the NC coast. Shame on you all for implementing this and same on our lawmakers for requiring this.
Government is corrupt top to bottom and this is just another way to siphon money from hard working people of North Carolina for who knows what seedy purpose where the money will most certainly be mis-managed.

9/5/2026

Residents should have a discounted price option.

9/5/2026

This Is a highway whether you admit it or not.

9/5/2026

Most important to me: Continue use PRIORITY PASSES for residents on Ocracoke - Hatteras Ferries

9/5/2026

1. Many kids on Knotts Island drive themselves to school. Would they be required to pay the toll for going to school, the original purpose of that ferry was for school children, so it is unacceptable to expect them to pay the toll.
2. The current ferry is not as reliable as it should be, when you pay for a service it should be available at the times posted. Missed runs will cause issues.
3. We often have kids walk on the ferry for activities on the mainland, or when kids have friends that live on the mainland they sometimes ride the ferry to the island. This is a common practice that will be a hassle for parents and children who use this as a means of transportation to spend time with friends or family when parents are not able to transport them. If vehicles are charged a toll I would hope that walk on passengers are not charged for transport.
4. This entire thing is being rushed, there has not been adequate time to plan this out at a level needed for a successful implementation.

9/5/2026

Residents should be exempt from paying for use of the Knotts Island ferry. This ferry was placed here to connect Knotts Island to the rest of mainland Currituck. It is part of our roadway and should remain free for residents. We pay taxes to North Carolina and that should be enough.

9/5/2026

Implementing tolls on an already overtaxed and stretched thin community will only harm us. In Raleigh you might think we're all rich and well off, but that's not true. Most of us work two, three, or sometimes four jobs just to live. You need to actually come here and talk to us before throwing a decision this big on the community. This will have real and lasting impact, and not for the better, for places like Ocracoke. Local's off season day trips for fun? Gone. Quick visits to friends who live on the island? Gone. Y'all need to really consider the long term impact and not just line pockets for Raleigh!!

9/4/2026

Use the funding for its intended purposes

9/4/2026

N/a

9/4/2026

Ferry Toll Annual Pass Proposal

I would be willing to pay the proposed \$150 annual ferry toll, provided there is a corresponding guarantee of reliable service.

My proposal is simple: for every day that any scheduled ferry run is canceled, the current single-ride toll should be credited back to my ferry account. If residents are expected to pay an annual fee for access to the ferry, it seems reasonable that they receive a credit whenever the service they have paid for is not fully provided.

This would create accountability on both sides. Residents would commit to paying the annual fee, while the ferry system would effectively stand behind the reliability of the service being sold.

Considering the frequency with which runs have historically been canceled, I fully expect that after paying my first \$150 annual fee, the accumulated cancellation credits will keep my ferry account paid in full for years to come.

If the ferry system is confident enough in its reliability to charge residents \$150 per year, this should be a very low-risk proposal for them to accept.

9/4/2026

No tolls please.

9/4/2026

NO TOLLS!!!

9/4/2026

Keep rates fair and transparent, make commuter and vendor passes easy to obtain, offer multiple payment options, and ensure toll collection does not create additional traffic or ferry delays.

9/4/2026

I do not think that Currituck County residents or Currituck County employees should have to pay a toll.

9/4/2026

We will take alternate route to avoid ferry tolls. This past year, the ferry service has been amended almost daily so we have routinely needed to drive from Minnesott Beach to Morehead for doctor/surgery appointments. We are very disappointed that tolls have been put in place without public comment opportunity.

9/4/2026

Charging residents to come and go from their homes without an efficient means to do so will result in a loss of residents. The workforce that keeps this community running will dwindle and visitors may not enjoy their experience as much due to poor service for lack of staffing at restaurants and businesses.

9/4/2026

ALL NC RESIDENTS SHOULD NOT HAVE TO PAY ANY TOLL AS WE ARE ALREADY PAYING FOR THE SERVICE! THIS IS DOUBLE TAXATION!

9/4/2026

Please remember that residents and non-resident property owners are the lifeblood of Ocracoke and contribute to the well-being of the community in many ways. The ferry is our only way to get to and from the island. Imagine if the only option you had to come and go from your home was to pay a toll. Also, it can be very difficult for some residents to make a living on Ocracoke so please consider free ferry passes for at least the residents and ideally, for the non-resident property owners as well. Those that can afford to go on vacation can afford the ferry toll. Please look there to generate the needed revenue. Thank you!

9/4/2026

Give passes to school to give parents traveling across for attending school functions and events.

9/4/2026

I am very concerned that the ferry doesn't run a lot of the time now. Will the ferry be running more often with 2 crews splitting the day? I understand crews are only permitted to run 12 hrs a day so please put another crew on half way through the day so there is more runs. If the ferry was more consistent with their runs and ran more often I wouldn't have a problem paying a toll. I do not like the fact that the students who drive their personal vehicle will also be rolled to take the ferry to school. This is their route to school they should be exempt from the toll this should go for any currituck county schools employees.

9/3/2026

If we have to pay 150 a year per car that's pretty expensive for retirees on a fixed income and families of 2 or more who use that Ferry -if there's to be a pass it should be per household, so a husband or a wife could both use it to go across. It's really going to limit average people using the Minnesott /cherry point ferry. Especially those who have a doctor or a job in the Moorhead City area. What about companies who have to ferry to go to job sites? The list goes on and on. The drive around the river is long.

9/3/2026

There used to be a special ferry run for special events at the schools. I.e. dances, sporting events. It would be nice if that could be reinstated on a special case basis.

9/3/2026

Good Luck.

9/3/2026

I would prefer there be no fees on necessary ferry commutes.

9/3/2026

Tolls require the ferry schedule to be maintained as scheduled barring severe weather impacts. Almost daily the ferry runs on an amended schedule making use for many unreliable and unavailable. Paying for it on top of the already paid taxes for "roads" including ferry's and being unable to use it is a slap in the face to residents.

9/3/2026

permanent residents should not be charged or have a minimal payment

9/3/2026

Since tolls will be happening, county residents with ferry terminals should be able to travel on the ferry for no charge or a reduced annual rate that differs from the \$150 a year option that is on the table now.

9/3/2026

Build the Bridge

9/3/2026

Set up toll road cameras at each boat ramp. Mail everyone a bill just like toll roads. Will require no new additional staffing. Hardware already in place throughout the state.

9/3/2026

The ferry is a heritage of the locals and a service that users from other states come to enjoy because it is unique and essential, North Carolina should keep it free.

9/3/2026

Do Not toll this ferry

9/3/2026

The Minnesott - Cherry Point is used mostly by residents and commuters, not tourists like some other routes. This will be a financial hardship for many so the price needs to be minimal.

9/3/2026

Toll needs to be reasonable for residents of Minnesott Beach, like one dollar each way.

9/3/2026

tolling shopuld not be implemented and if its is seniors should get a discount and military veterans/ VA health recipients should be free for services at Cherry Point and Morehead VA Clinic

9/3/2026

N/A

9/3/2026

This issue has been presented to the people before and was rejected. Your form implies that it's I've already been decided and that all that is an issue is what small adjustments do you make to how the process would proceed. This is not acceptable.

9/3/2026

NO TOLLS! If we are going to be tolled here in Currituck County, there needs to be a ferry running continuously during ferry operating and more runs needed to be added to the current schedule.

9/3/2026

it is 110 miles from my house to the high school and back. My kids are out of school but they played 2 sports when they were in school. the parents now depend on the ferry so their children can participate in extra curricular activities.

9/3/2026

I attended North Carolina for undergrad & law school and MBA. I have paid more than my fair share into the state system; however I live on the VA side of Knotts Island. Did any legislator think about the other side of the island for those who rely on the Knotts Island - Currituck Ferry? I know they havent, on the VA or NC side because I spoke with several of them.

9/3/2026

There should not be a toll implemented. Knotts Island is not a tourist destination, majority of the people using the Knotts Island Ferry are Knotts Island residents. This is the way nearly all Knotts Island highschoolers use to get to school. Students who drive will have to choose between the weekly cost of riding the ferry, or driving the hour and 15 minute drive to high school. Due to the lack of tourism, this toll will impact locals directly. Anyone who has worked on this toll, voted for it, supported it, or otherwise, I will not vote for them next election cycle. This is the only form of public transportation we have on the OBX.

9/3/2026

This is our highway to get to shopping, medical appointment, school events. If you build a bridge we won't need ferrys. We pay gas tax like everyone else. Raise the gas tax. This tax on the users is inefficient. A significant amount of funds raised will pay for salaries and benefits for toll collectors.

The added time at terminals will disrupt the efficiency.

9/3/2026

I think will how small the island is we should not have to pay more the 5-10, because at that point we should just drive around. For students its hard to pay for gas with the prices and that to any age group. Older people dont want to drive around. People who walking on dont have money to just get on the ferry for a court date. Its hurt broke people. In ten years collect all the money and build bridge.

9/3/2026

The tolling of the Currituck/KI ferry is extremely detrimental to the residents of the island. The ferry is our means to stay in NC to support locals. The trip eliminating the ferry is 60 miles one-way. This is potentially a financial hardship to many family having to incur, either additional gas money to drive around or pay the tolls. Many families take two car across daily for job and school. And for child or children have an evening or afterschool activity the cost is even more for that family. For those that live on the island and take the ferry to work - thats another \$150-\$300 out of their budget - many hardly getting by now.

As far as tourism, there isn't really much to come to the island for except for scenery and I'm sure no one is going to want to pay a toll just to pass through. However, this may affect going into Currituck, such as those traveling to Nags Head. May have to think twice about heading to the other side to shop and keep our money in NC.

I feel very slighted that there was not a meeting before this was already put "into law". Residents should have been able to voice their opinions and concerns.

Also if you need to go to any government facility/court the ferry dropped you off close by and cost nothing. Driving around impacts the budget on a round trip to court.

Also may islander have doctors in NC and ride the ferry for care. This will affect them greatly. People are on fixed incomes.

9/3/2026

The toll payment of 150.00 a car should not be!

Way can it not be 150.00 per house hold

Also if you have a pass you should be able to have priority over the cars that have one time passes

9/3/2026

9. What should NCDOT do to make implementation work better for you or your community?

Maintain affordable travel options for frequent users - free for residents

This is not right for residents of KI. Its 60 mile to drive around instead of taken the ferry. Kid going to school will have to choose not to play sports, or return to school for any events. Parents and family that would go to support them can't afford to go to games, ect. Lottery money was suppose to go to Roads and Schools. The option to drive around makes it hard to just stay in NC for events. I have to drive around I'm already in VA guess you don't care to keep business in NC. Unfortunate that we attend these meetings to just walk around when decisions have already been made. At the least you could do is charge per household and not per vechicle. Better yet don't charge KI Residents. Also have to change my medical care to VA

9/3/2026

4. How do you expect ferry tolls to impact your daily travel or activities?

Curr. Co. residents should not be charged for the ferry service.

9. What should NCDOT do to make implementation work better for you or your community?

Do not charge for K.I. ferry service for Curr. Co. residents.

1. Currituck Co. residents should NOT be charged at all for our ferry. My grandfather, Harold D. Capps, as commissioner worked very hard to get the ferry here mainly for the school children but also to connect K.I. to the mainland. What if residents have more than one driver to school because of sports? They must drive around. Will they be charged additional charges? NO charges for any resident.

2. K.I. & Gibbs Woods have always been neglected in general. Raleigh does NOT understand the dynamics of NENC in general. If some would come to the area, they would have a better understanding. KI & Gibbs Woods are surrounded by marsh, roads could be improved a lot! How are residents supposed to get off the island when the main road is flooded - Pungo Ferry (VA); go to West Neck? What if that is flooded, go to Indian River? What if that is flooded, go to [illegible]? What if that is flooded; go to Dam Neck? Residents should not have to drive that far to evacuate the island. Many residents do not drive. There is a need for additional ways to get off the island.

3. During DOT visit to KI, did they notice how high the grass was on the side of the road? There were cattails growing on the white line. Terrible representation of our great state!

4. We are paying taxes already - the ferry is an extension of 615.

5. No, I do not live on K.I. but my family has been here for generations + I am very connected to K.I. - we have a farm here.

9/3/2026

Go to Town Dock.com and read 72 cents / 8/31/26

9/2/2026

We have multiple vehicles we will use to go back and forth from Carteret County to our business property and find it to be a hardship to have to have a decal for each of our vehicles at \$150 each. We would like to see if you can offer perhaps up to 3 vehicles per decal.

9/2/2026

Pass should be assigned to the person, not the vehicle!!

Concerned about people on fixed incomes

Senior citizens should have a discount

9/2/2026

Way to go legislature to bury this bill in the state budget! :(

9/2/2026

1. It is not cost effective way to make money -
2. People hired to man booths
3. Vendors paid to issue passes - safty issues with this
4. Raise in gas tax would be more efficient
5. Pamlico residents do not care if there is an HOV lane in Charlotte

9/2/2026

The Minnesott/Cherry Branch ferry is actually an extention of Rte 306 so the toll is on a roadway. Wrong!!

9/2/2026

1 - concern - resident anual pass for a single vehicle. - Change to a movable pass for family with multiple vehicles. Register vehicles to pass.

9/2/2026

5. What impacts do you think your community might experience?

More reliable funding for long-term vessel replacement - Eventually: 3-5 year procurement cycle (or longer) to get a new ferry

will not give immediate relief

1. Change the law to modify the implementation date to 1 Jan 2028 or later

2. Make the toll pass applicable to a household vs. per car.

There are too many - The legislature's implementation schedule is ludicrous! There is no existing infrastructure at CB or MB to collect tolls or use EZ Pass. It will be years before we see the first "new" ferry at MB/CB location.

I feel bad for the low income families in Pamlico Country who will become more cash strapped w/ paying tolls, or spend more money on fuel to take the long way across the Neuse River

9/2/2026

A toll is needed if the funds are spent as reported.

9/2/2026

The ferry system is an extension of the "highway system." It is that way because it was considered to be much more economical to have ferries than to build bridges. We have a gas tax to make sure that our highway system is taken care of. Everyone in the state that buys gas is putting \$ into the pot. We in Oriental are paying for the road repairs in western NC after the hurricane. It is one big pool. The fact that a group wanted express lanes in Charlotte and couldn't get the DOT to fund it so they needed to make it a toll road should have NO impact on the rest of the NC Highway system.

9/2/2026

I am very concerned with paying for unreliable service. The amended ferry schedules are more the "norm".

More excuses to not run the ferry on schedule including no ferry for 24 hours due to "TIDE"?

9/2/2026

Residents of landing counties should be EXEMPT

If have 3 vehicles and 2 people - do I need 2 or 3 passes?

If this is implemented w/o exemption, our tourist economy tanks.

I would no longer travel to east Craven or Carteret counties - affecting their economies as well.

If you're tolling, will the availability/mechanical health of the ferries improve? They have been on a reduced schedule several days/week for months.

9/2/2026

You should be ashamed charging for a 20 min. ferry ride. Up the charges on the longer routes. How can you live with yourself charging these folks in Pamlico for the shortest route of all the ferries.

How about adding \$1.00 to car/truck registrations and driver licenses or even \$5.00.

Pamlico County is a poor county, any fee will adversely affect them. Do better! National news will hear!

9/2/2026

This is part of the NCDOT and we are already paying taxes, fees, and at the pump for the road tax on fuel, tires, and other. There should be no additional charges for the use of this highway system!

9/2/2026

Allow use of EZ Pass & travel passes from other states to oc unt.

Seniors on limited incomes, who use ferry to get to medical appointments, were not considered.

Are bridges throughout the state going to have toll booths?

9/2/2026

I have concerns about having to register each vehicle instead of a family pass. We have multiple vehicles that we use but would not use often enough to make registering each vehicle.

I think there should be senior rates, business rates and rates for disabled.

9/2/2026

5. What impacts do you think your community might experience?

More reliable funding for long-term vessel replacement - joke - will funds actually be used for this

Increased predictability of ferry schedules - joke - we've had a normal schedule a handful of times a month

Potential improvements in terminal operations - joke - Cherry Branch was just updated

This entire "meeting" was another perfect eample of those voted in by the people completely out of touch with those they are supposed to serve. It was grossly disrespectful to those whom will be the most impacted, and it along with those forms are why most vote the way they do. While the staff here were very courteous and polite - how could you send them with NO information about the \$28 M grant!??

9/2/2026

I work 5 days a week in Pamlico County

When the Ferry doesn't operate or is on an amended schedule Monday-Friday, I have to drive an hour one way to go to work which is COSTLY IN GAS. I am beyond frustrated about this.

9/2/2026

Bridge should have been built years ago.

9/2/2026

Bottom line is - no fee on ferry -

9/2/2026

We are already taxed excessively for no reason. We pay gas taxes, sales taxes, local taxes, income taxes, and so many more. Now we are expected to pay additional fees to travel on state owned equipment. It's ridiculous. It should be reconsidered before you begin to tax more money from us. Why not just build a bridge that is available 24/7 and not affected by weather.

9/2/2026

I am the mayor of Oriental and I am so disappointed. I have always paid for Cedar Island Ferry never Minnesott or Bay River!

I am retired now and play golf in Beaufort + Morehead. Will not anymore & vacation to Outer Banks, will not anymore!

9/2/2026

A permit for each car is not going to work for people

9/2/2026

Concerned that the NC Congress went behind our backs to charge these tolls. And they don't live in our counties.

9/2/2026

This is a continuation of job we pay for the roads - the fact that our road ends at the river + doesn't pick-up until the other side doesn't mean we should be punished by having to pay extra.

9/2/2026

Due to the poor quality of the two "electric ferries", service at Minnesott/Cherry Branch is unreliable to say the least. Why should I be expected to pay premium prices for such lousy service. Not dependable at ALL!

One annual pass should be applicable per family - not per vehicle.

Once we pay, is the inconvenience going to miraculously disappear + ALL ferries working. Are you waiting for us to be so disgusted with current service, so we'll be happy to PAY tolls for reliability. Evidently so - NEWS FLASH - we are not stupid Nor are we ostriches with our heads in the sand; however, I am sure we will get burned in the end.

V fi Doctor

9/2/2026

Adding tolls is double taxation to Eastern North Carolina. Expected collection is \$5 ml Cost to implement \$25 ml - based on current ridership. - which will drop! A new ferry is \$30 ml It will take 2 yrs to buy a new ferry. It is beyond belief that the legislature and NCDOT never funded for replacement. If this implemented ridership will plummet and the ferry system will collapse. [illegible] state politicians that [illegible] method of transportation. Raise the gas tax [illegible] for Dot 3.38 billion budget. There are hundreds of angry people here for Pamlico County.

9/2/2026

I do not use the ferry [illegible] but for those that do I do not think it is fair to charge those that do. We are paying enough in our lives as is.

9/2/2026

Outrageous to think Pamlico County has enough tourist to justify any fee!!

A bridge would be acceptable!!

9/2/2026

- Commuter pass boarding priority lane
- Commuter pass for commuter not vehicle like EZ Pass
- Refunds when service is unavailable
- Constant 2-boat schedule

9/2/2026

Toll for Minnesott/Cherry Branch ferry is ridiculous. Those with money will pay, those with less money will have to buy more gasoline + time for no reason. This ferry is part of NC Rte 306! Build a bridge.

9/2/2026

Our ferry system is not a luxury. We pay highway taxes which cover all highways including the ferry system so this toll is doubling our burden. It is problem because eastern NC is already one of the poorest sections of the state and this is just another way to screw the working class, poor, and seniors.

9/2/2026

The yearly pass should be on a mobile placard and applicable to the entire household. Many people have more than 1 vehicle. This methodology works for handicapped parking passes. Or, NCDOT can issue the number of stickers for the number of vehicles registered to that address.

IMO, the NC State Legislature should be ashamed of itself as how this "highway robbery of a law" was passed!

9/2/2026

The residents should not be paying tolls. We already pay for snow removal we do not need - now we have have to pay for what we do need.

There are many construction materials you cannot get in New Bern so Morehead City is the place to order - now those folks get to level x-tra charges for delivery.

Our veterans have to go to Havelock & Morehead City for services - they should not have to pay.

9/2/2026

Do not implement fees.

9/2/2026

Highway 306 and the ferry are part of a highway system for those of us who live in Pamlico County. Many of our neighbors depend on that ferry to get to work at Cherry Point or travel into Currituck County. Charging seniors, disabled residents, and working families is simply more than we can afford. Here's my suggestion: let every North Carolinian contribute one dollar a year to support our ferry system. Then ferries could remain free for North Carolina residents, while out of state visitors pay a small \$5 fee. Families from Camp sea Gulf and Camp Seafarer could continue enjoying this beautiful part of our state, homeowners could reach their beautiful part of the state, homeowners could reach their beach houses, and the local people wouldn't be nickled just for traveling on their own state highway system. One dollar apiece, free ferries for North Carolinians, and no burdensome \$150 passes. Everyone is happy. Amen - and peace be with you!!

9/2/2026

Residents should not have to pay the same as visitors
 Vets, seniors, disabled should have discounts
 People using it to travel to work should pay lower
 Minn. Beach - Cherry Point is somewhat unique.

9/2/2026

No cell service at dock!

Frequency of ferry service - Meets majority of my needs, but would like to see run more like it used to.
 Reliability and punctuality of ferry service - Punctuality is great, has had 40 service disruptions so far in 2026, some lasting for days.
 Wait time to board ferry - No way to shorten it
 Cost of ferry service - Needs to be free, extension of Highway 306

Adopt resolution to remain free for coastal residents that rely on ferry for daily commute to work

If pass implemented, able to be transferred between vehicles. At Nutrien Auroa, the workplace of most that use the Aurora/Bayview ferry, the environment is very corrosive. Most of us rotate between 2 of 3 junk cars because even if we were able to afford a nice vehicle, it wouldn't last at work. If I am going to be paying more for this extension of the state highway than what I am already paying for through taxes, I would like to see more reliability.

9/1/2026

all of this involves costs for infrastructure - duh ... who in your milieu has even considered THE COSTS?

Typical government move, as in US govt. Tax the poor so the rich have benefits. 306 is a commuter lane - 306 on both sides. Users typically are blue collar, military people with lower incomes. Pamlico County as a whole is a poor county. Shame on you for bilking poor people for your own benefit.

An alternative plan - see other page. Add \$1.00 fee to all vehicle registrations. I am ashamed for you. I am ashamed at N.C. Gov't for pulling this stunt. I'm sure National News will be informed about your bad behavior.

Shame! Shame! Shame!

9/1/2026

for the employees at nutrien that take the ferry, they have 2-3 vehicles. A per vehicle pass is not durable in the economy. A family pass or person pass that can be swapped between vehicles. Ideally it could be free for residential people, especially for those that take it for work.

9/1/2026

The NC Legislature is adding insult to injury. The NC Legislature disproportionately charges residents in poor rural areas to fund wealthier urban areas. We already have fewer options for affordable/quality health care. Please do not further add to our transportation burdens. The free ferries in Currituck, Pamlico, & Beaufort Counties help with our tourism, military, + mining revenues.

9/1/2026

OK to charge tourists for Ocracoke.
Do not charge commuter routes

9/1/2026

Thank you for providing this information sharing time -
My adult son travels from Bath to Aurora for work -

9/1/2026

Voicemail Comments

Andrea Arnold Ocracoke, North Carolina. As a resident of Ocracoke, I would like to respectfully request you not change the priority path. This is not a convenience or a special privilege for us. It's an essential lifeline. Ocracoke has no bridge or other highway connection to the mainland. Residents have to rely on the ferry to get to basic necessities and services during the vacation season. Per season. The wait time at the ferry is unpredictable and sometimes hours long. Without our priority boarding, it becomes impossible for us to even schedule appointments like medical or dental legal court, grocery interview for jobs, airline travel connection. It becomes extremely important for us to keep the priority pass. We understand it has to be authorized by the general assembly and enacted in Tel our and I respectfully request that you do that and you keep the residence of Oak Coke able to live a life like everybody else here in North Carolina. Thank you for your time.

9/14/2026 ☐

Hi, my name is Misha Cine. I am a local resident here in Ocracoke. I'm calling to express that I would really like the importance of basically priority boarding for locals. It's really essential for people, especially in the summertime. This is an unusual place to live. I also own a business here. It is incredibly important. A return to member is [REDACTED] That's [REDACTED] Please feel free to call back if you'd like some more information. I think I'm supposed to say that this, we urge your administration to preserve the Priority Pass program on a temporary basis while a permanent statutory authorization is pursued. Thank you so much. Bye.

9/12/2026 ☐

Sharon Schoff Ocracoke, North Carolina. Two questions. Retaining priority passes for residents on Ocracoke is critical. That needs to be written into the legislation before this January 1st takes place. And secondly, non-resident homeowners should be available to buy a commuter pass considering that they have property here on Ocracoke. Pay an extreme amount of taxes, which supports Hyde County and also purchase insurance from the North Carolina State Department. So we really support a lot of your economic structure here on the Outer banks. So I question why the commuter pass won't be allowed for non-resident homeowners. Thank you for your time. Bye.

9/10/2026 ☐

Yes. Hello. My name is Thomas Paul. I'm a resident in Ocracoke, North Carolina. I'm calling regarding the ferry toll implementation. In particular, I'm concerned about the loss of the priority pass. This is an absolute travesty as far as the people of the island go without priority boarding. We're unable to schedule doctor's appointments, dentist appointments, appointments for legal purposes, or court. How can we get to court in a timely fashion? How can we schedule a airline flight or any kind of travel that requires a connection Without priority boarding, we never know how long the wait is gonna be at the ferry. It, it just makes it impossible to live here. It's, it's perfectly fine if you're a visitor and a tourist, and you can wait two hours to get on a ferry. But for regular daily life, it's, it makes it impossible. The, the priority pass is absolutely essential. This needs to change by whatever means necessary and cannot be implemented even on a short term basis. Thank you.

9/9/2026 ☐

1. Removing priority passes from Ocracoke residents - how is that going to help the ferry division? Is this threat a distraction from the tolling issue ... we'll figure we WON something when you don't take them away.
2. I posed this question to Roy Surratt when he visited the island recently - is the law (statute) still on the books that states "everyone in NC has at least one free egress from their home"? If it's still on the books, aren't you breaking the law by charging legal residents of Ocracoke for the Hatteras ferry?
3. I don't have a problem with charging visitors for the Hatteras-Ocracoke ferry. They can afford a small charge (certainly not more than \$5 each way) and that income might allow the ferry division to make needed repairs to ferries. If you've been keeping track recently, you'll notice that the Hatteras-Ocracoke ferry has been on an amended schedule more often than not. Ridiculous enough for a free service, but won't be an acceptable service when it costs money!
Maybe you need to put a fee on the Bonner bridge (EZpass) and then get lots more money from anyone/everyone who visits the Outer Banks. Would Dare County like that? Probably not ... but the residents and business owners of Ocracoke Island count on income from visitors to survive. How is the fee for the Hatteras-Ocracoke ferry going to impact the visitors to Ocracoke? Will they still visit or will they spend their time and money visiting somewhere other than NC beaches?
4. Do you really believe you can set a sensible plan in place by Jan 1, 2027 to collect a fee for the ferry? How many new bonded workers will the state have to hire? Can't just do EZ pass because not everyone has that ... Can't just use CC's because not everyone uses credit cards. Charging both directions? How much will it cost to build something on Ocracoke (and man it) to collect money ... issue tickets ... collect tickets? You probably don't have time to set this in motion. It will be a disaster ... ! can see it now
5. Not all the residents of Ocracoke can afford to buy a commuter pass for all three ferries. There are plenty of elderly folks here to simply don't have the money to spend.
Just implement a toll starting in 2028. Give yourself a chance to make it work. Every car that has a priority pass is free.
So simple. Sensible ... that's the word ...
William and Leslie Monticone
Full time island residents since 1995.

9/9/2026 

I live on Knots Island. I suggest vets and seniors are not told at all, and for residents other than students, seniors or vets, maybe five bucks. I'm seeing 30 bucks. You're ridiculous. That's outrageous and I hope that it would be repealed by 28. I did go to the meeting and I was very disappointed that none of our representatives who voted for it in Raleigh were there. They just snuck it in a bill and now you guys gotta implement it. But again, seniors, vets, school, children, I understand jury duty. Those should be free. Regular residents, maybe five bucks, and then charge the visitors who come. I mean, you're not gonna make a lot of income out of it, but it is putting a burden on people that live there. This is our only way to connect to our own county. It's disgrace that they've put passed us through. Even five bucks is too much. It's ridiculous. Thank you. [REDACTED]

9/8/2026 □

Yes. My name is Augustus Pittman. I'm a resident in Norfolk, Virginia. We travel down to Oke Island every summer for vacation through Swan Quarter, only because we can make a reservation on the ferry with tolling. If we come through Hatteras, will we also be able to make a reservation on that ferry, or does it remain first come first serve? Please advise. My home phone is [REDACTED]. Thank you very much.

8/19/2026 □

Email Comments

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9/9/2026 

Comments: Meeting for Ferry Tolling Implementation September 1, 2026

Comments: Meeting for Ferry Tolling Implementation September 2, 2026

Comments: Meeting for Ferry Tolling Implementation September 3, 2026

Comments: Meeting for Ferry Tolling Implementation September 8, 2026

Comments: Meeting for Ferry Tolling Implementation September 9, 2026