



Strategic Plan Summit - March 21, 2018

Strategic Plan Facts

What is the transit Strategic Plan?

The Public Transportation Strategic Plan is a framework to guide North Carolina's state, city and county governments and transit providers in our common vision of Connecting North Carolinians to Opportunities. The Strategic Plan establishes a Vision, Mission, Strategies and Tactics to focus the state and local transit investment. It will help prioritize North Carolina's transit spending.

How was the Strategic Plan created? Who was involved?

N.C. Department of Transportation staff along with key stakeholders established Executive and Technical steering committees to manage the Strategic Plan's development. Stakeholders included state agencies, the League of Municipalities, the Association of County Commissioners, urban and rural transit agencies, and health-care providers. The Strategic Plan was developed through two rounds of nine community meetings held across the state with more than 400 participants who identified the challenges facing transit service and shared their ideas for improving access to opportunities for all North Carolinians.

Does this mean there will be new transit services?

The Strategic Plan recommends a Connected Statewide Network, expanded regional commuter services, and new local services. The specific services to be added will be defined in upcoming implementation studies. All of North Carolina's transit services are operated, in partnership with NCDOT, by local governments, regional transit authorities and non-profit transit agencies who make the service provision decisions. Following adoption of the Transit 2001 plan in 1995, an increase in state funding provided incentives for local governments to grow local transit services. As the new Strategic Plan's recommendations are considered, new transit funding may become available for capital and service expansion.

What is the proposed Connected Statewide Network, and how will it work?

Today, many of North Carolina's 100 transit agencies provide out-of-county services to major medical centers and community colleges. The Connected



Statewide Network will operate and expand these transit routes on regular schedules, enabling all residents to benefit from the services.

The Connected Statewide Network will be operated by a combination of local transit agencies and private operators. In the future, the service might operate with a statewide brand, supported with technologies such as a statewide call center and scheduling apps to improve the customer experience.

Providing access to opportunities, the Connected Statewide Network focuses on major medical centers, community colleges, major employers and transportation hubs. The network will be implemented incrementally over time as a partnership between local transit agencies, private operators who may operate some of the services, and NCDOT. The pace of implementation will depend on the success of the services and available funding.

In 2017, the North Carolina General Assembly provided \$2 million in funding to encourage transit agencies to work together and begin formalizing these regional routes and consolidating systems.

What are examples of new routes and how they would be beneficial?

Using a combination of state, federal and local funding, two new regional routes have already started operation.

Clay County Transportation's Ridge Runner is operated weekdays from Hayesville with stops in Franklin, Sylva and Asheville. Customers from Clay, Macon, Swain, Jackson and Haywood counties use the service. The route provides access to major medical facilities in Asheville and coordinates the services of multiple county transit agencies.

The Down East Express is operated by the Carteret County Area Transportation System and began service in January 2018 with stops in Beaufort, New Bern, Kinston, Goldsboro, Smithfield, and Triangle destinations. The service operates weekdays and includes customers from Carteret, Duplin, Johnston, Onslow and Wayne counties. It provides access to major medical centers in Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill and the Raleigh-Durham Airport when requested.

What happens next?

The Strategic Plan final report is underway and will be released in mid-2018. It will include an action plan and implementation recommendations for three strategies and fifteen tactics. It will also include a financial plan to grow North Carolina's transit services and supporting infrastructure.