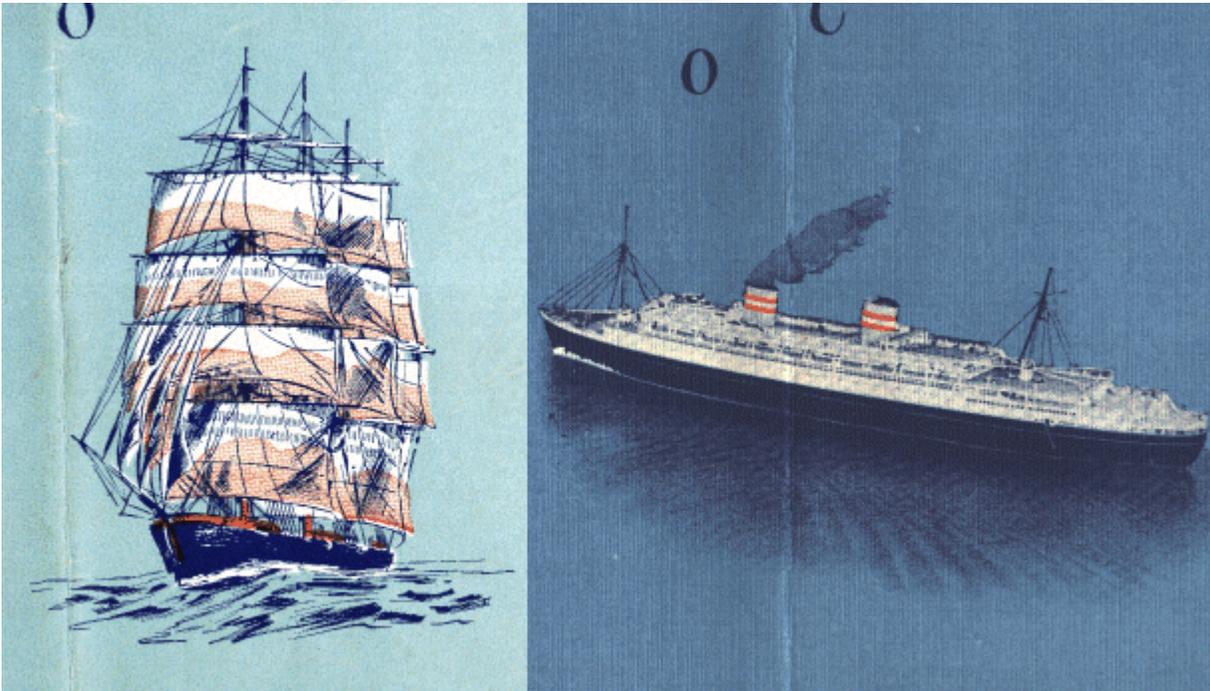


History of the NC State Transportation Map

There have been quite a few changes to the state map since it was first printed in 1916. The detail of the map and number of roads shown have obviously increased over the past 90 years but it has changed in so many other ways as well. For instance, did you know that starting in 1941, the staff of NCDOT produced two versions of the travel map for three decades? The black and white version featured regulatory information for commercial vehicles where the color version highlighted points of interest for our many tourists. You may have also noticed that in addition to the map itself, there are various types of information printed on the sides and back of the map each year.

Just a **small sample** of this information includes;

- River Basins
- Camping Sites
- Ferry Schedules
- Motorist's Prayer
- Work Zone Safety
- Traffic Laws and Signs
- National and State Parks
- Festivals and Tournaments
- A welcome message from the governor
- Conservation and Environmental Issues
- Number of copies made (and cost of each)
- Information on the programs initiated by the governor's office
- Beautiful photography featuring scenery from the beach to the mountains



Clips from the 1936 and 1938 NC maps.

Mileage Chart

Even though the map changes with every printing, there are some changes worthy of noting in particular. One such change is the addition of the mileage chart in 1923. This allowed readers to estimate the mileage for their trip between major cities in North Carolina. Of course, as new roads were added to our great state, the mileage chart has required editing on a regular basis.

ASHBORO	59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ASHEVILLE	161	202	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BAKERSVILLE	181	204	67	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BAYBORO	243	212	404	416	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BEAUFORT	267	236	428	440	58	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BOONE	137	152	109	63	356	380	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BREVARD	173	224	41	108	416	440	150	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BRYSON CITY	235	276	74	141	478	502	183	83	0	0	0	0	0	0
BURGAW	190	169	349	373	120	144	321	361	423	0	0	0	0	0
BURNSVILLE	184	207	42	25	419	443	67	83	116	376	0	0	0	0
CAMDEN	307	263	455	454	175	202	391	477	529	228	458	0	0	0
CARTHAGE	57	49	218	238	186	210	194	230	292	137	241	0	0	0
CHARLOTTE	41	92	120	140	284	308	111	132	194	229	143	0	0	0
CLINTON	140	119	299	319	110	134	271	311	373	50	322	0	0	0

Motorist Information

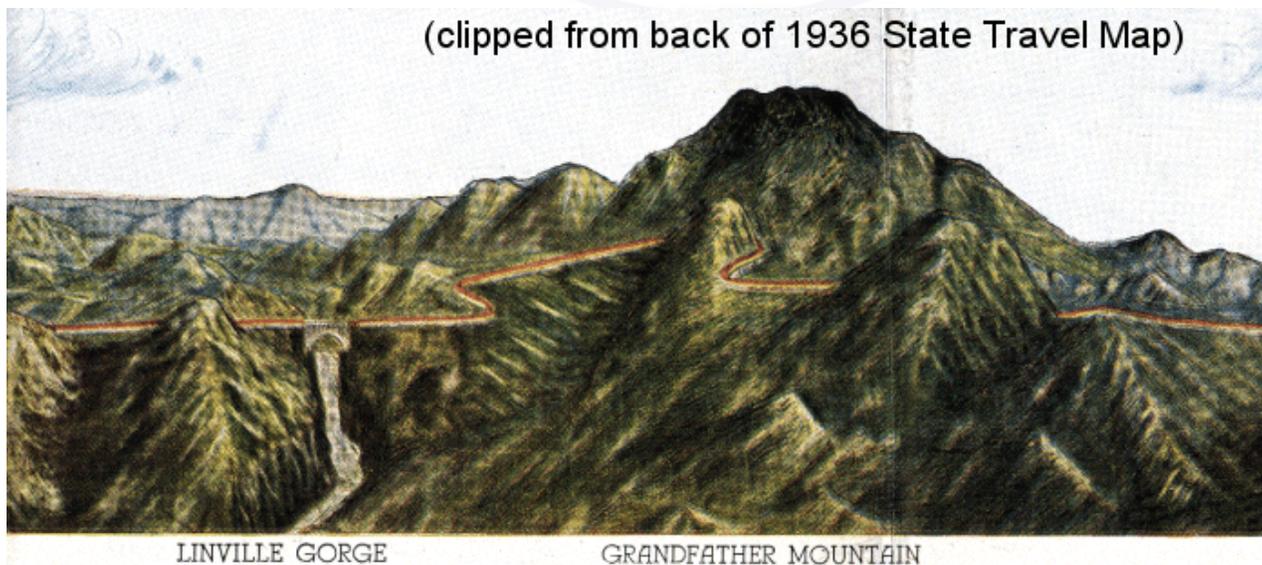
In 1930, the travel map first showed motorists the proper use of hand signals for left turns, right turns and stopping.

STANDARD HAND SIGNALS



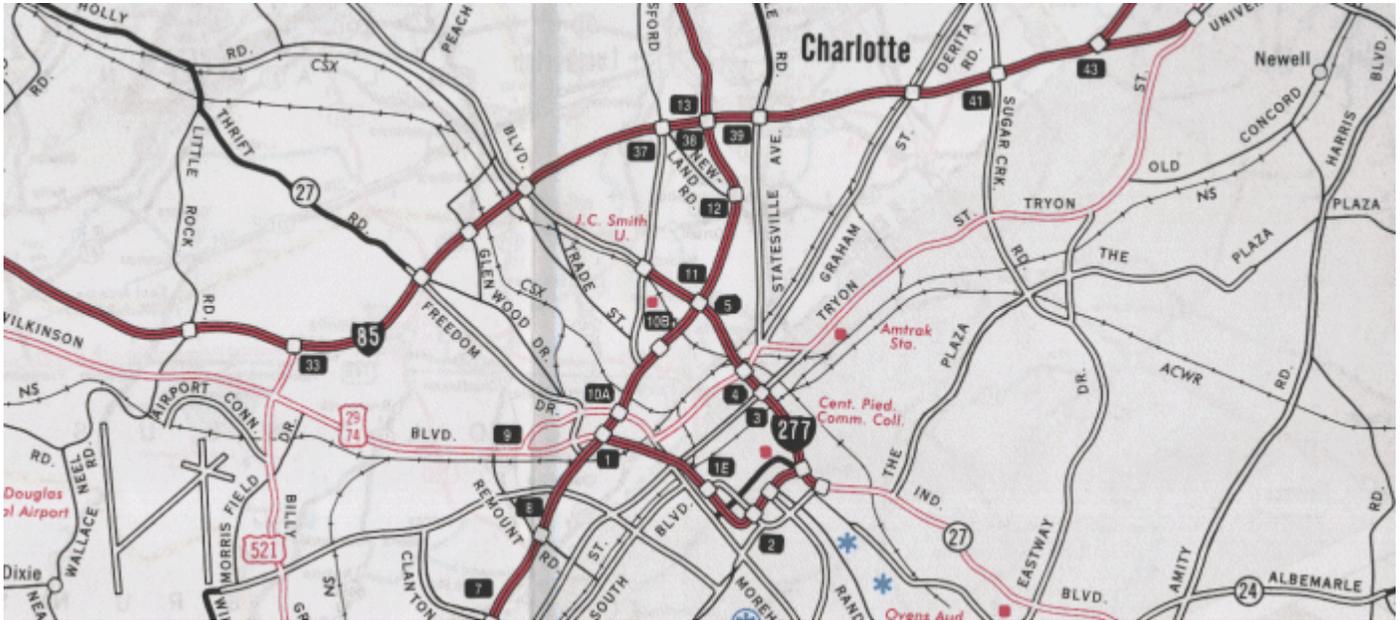
Scenic / Travel Information

1936 was another benchmark year for the State Travel Map. It was printed in color for the first time and featured a 40 inch hand-drawn panorama of the Blue Ridge Parkway, which was under construction at the time.



City Insets

Yet another major change is the relocation of the eleven insets to the back of the map during the 1992/1993 printing. The insets could then be shown larger, to reveal better detail. Several years prior to the 92/93 printing, a travel and tourism advertisement covered most on the back of the map. Then in 1995, another 8 insets were added to the back. Now there are a total of 22 insets on the back of the map.



Old method for producing North Carolina's State Transportation Map

The state map has been hand drawn on mylar sheets for years. Several different sheets had to be kept current in order for the printer to handle multiple colors. Each mylar sheet represented one color. This particular sheet shows the coastline, major lakes and forest boundaries, which were printed in various shades of blue.



Mrs. Ivonne Grady (and Mr. Poe Cox) spent many hours leaning over a light table using the ink pens to insert new roads or text onto the map. To delete or move a road or text, they used a modeler's knife to scrape the ink off the mylar. Many times decals were used for large text such as titles. Alignment marks off the border of the map helped keep each sheet lined up properly.

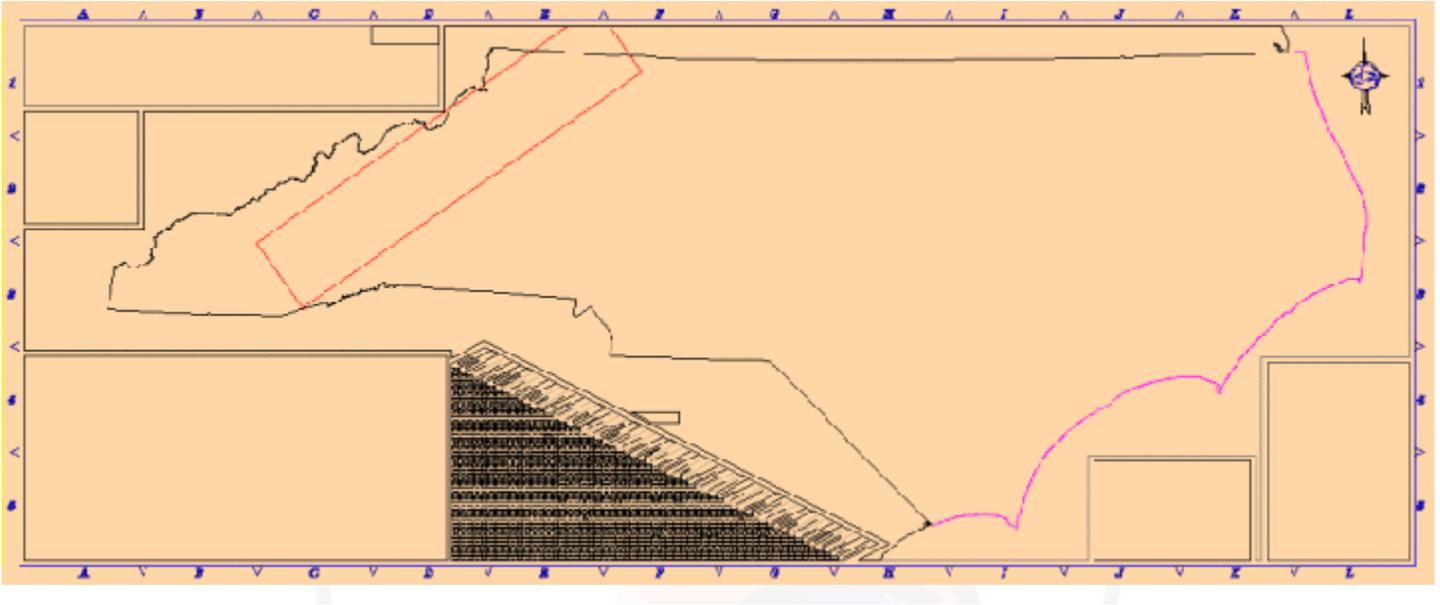


Ivonne Grady passed away on October 15, 2008. She is missed by her family and friends.

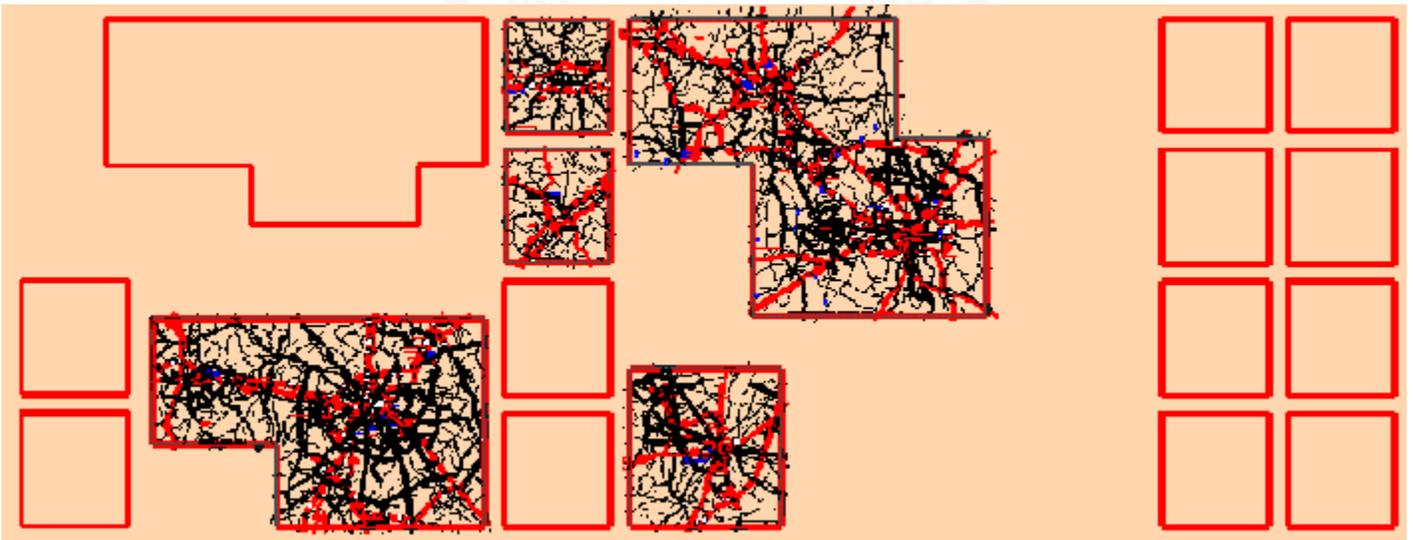
Converting the Transportation Map to Digital

One of the most significant changes ever made to the state map was completed in 2001. It was completely converted into digital format. Edits and additions can now be made more easily using a CADD package without the tedious hand drawn processes of the past.

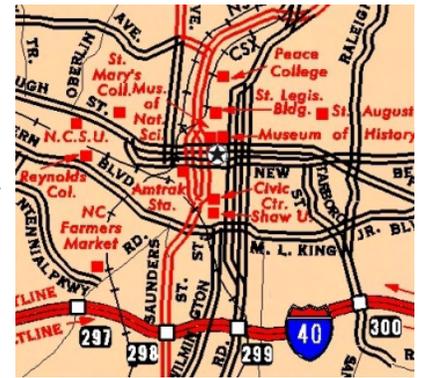
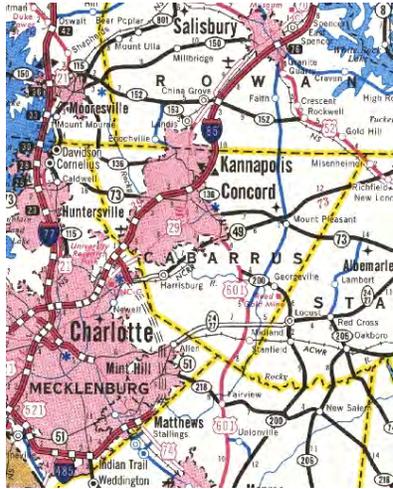
This layout of the digital map resembled the previous state maps including the mileage chart and index letters.



For the back of the state map, the location for each inset was determined first. The digital roadwork (which our unit digitized and photo-revised several years prior) was copied into each section. The linework used for the State Travel Map comes from the same digital file that is used as a basis for producing our county maintenance maps. Then the task of placing text, highway shields and symbols followed. Here are five of the insets partially complete. (The large inset in the center is Raleigh-Durham.)



The text and symbols can easily get congested in urban areas. 'Points of interest' symbols carry the same color as their descriptions to make the map less confusing. Interstate shields are shown in red and blue to resemble the actual signs along the roads. Exit numbers use a high contrast to make them easier to read.



Accuracy is essential because there have been as many as two million copies printed in the same year. Several draft maps are sent to our plotters here in Information & Mapping so we can check the spatial relationship between roads, text, symbols and shapes (like city limits). The NCDOT Communications Office creates photos and text describing features and services from North Carolina. All the data is then cut to CD-ROM and sent to the commercial printer's office. The printer merges the map data with photos and text provided by the Communications Office. A proof of the map is printed several times by the printer's office as well. Ivonne Grady and a representative from the Communications office are always responsible for giving the final approval for the mass printing to begin. There are usually between 1.5 and 2 million copies distributed every year. You can obtain a free copy by ordering online, calling 1-877-DOT-4YOU or pick one up at a local rest area or welcome center (normally found on interstates when you enter NC).

