



## News Release

For Immediate Release

### **NCDOT Breaks Ground on Inland Route for Ferries**

*Plans Based on Route Traveled in 'Outer Banks' TV Series*

**A**s confirmation of a recent article featured in [Walter Magazine](#), the N.C. Department of Transportation broke ground today on an unprecedented, inland ferry route.

**P**lans call for the route to mostly follow a path along the Neuse River, creating a direct connection between the Triangle region and Hatteras Island that spans about 230 miles. The project is nearly six times the size of the Panama Canal and has an estimated price tag of \$14.25 billion, which will be financed by way of a GoFundMe campaign.

**R**egional and state transportation officials have considered the inland ferry route ever since characters in the Netflix series "Outer Banks" took a ferry from the barrier islands to Chapel Hill.

"If this project allows North Carolinians to find a love like that of John B and Sarah, it is well worth the investment," said NCDOT Chief Operating Officer Beau Memory.

**L**ocating a ferry route in the heart of the state is one of many examples of how NCDOT continues to turn innovative transportation ideas into reality, according to state Transportation Secretary J. Eric Boyette. "Innovation is what we do here in North Carolina," Boyette said. "We're going to show the rest of the world ferries don't belong just at the coast."

**F**or the portion of the project in the Triangle, two alternatives are being considered for the ferry route.

**O**fficials have decided the Preferred Alternative will be chosen based on the outcome of the Final Four game between UNC-Chapel Hill and Duke University.

**O**n-campus ferry dock access will be free and unlimited to students of the winning school.

**L**atest plans call for designating the Triangle area portion of this project as the "Tobacco Route."

**S**chedules for the dredging required along the Neuse River have yet to be determined.