



NORTH CAROLINA
Department of Transportation

STIP Updates

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Division of Planning & Programming

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Connecting people, products and places safely and efficiently with customer focus, accountability and environmental sensitivity to enhance the economy and vitality of North Carolina

Agenda

Confident Scope and Cost Estimate (CSCE)

TIP Approvals

Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Funded Projects

Pedestrian Safety Project Call

Confident Scope and Cost Estimate



Bicycle &
Pedestrian



Rail



Public
Transportation



Aviation



Ferry



Highway

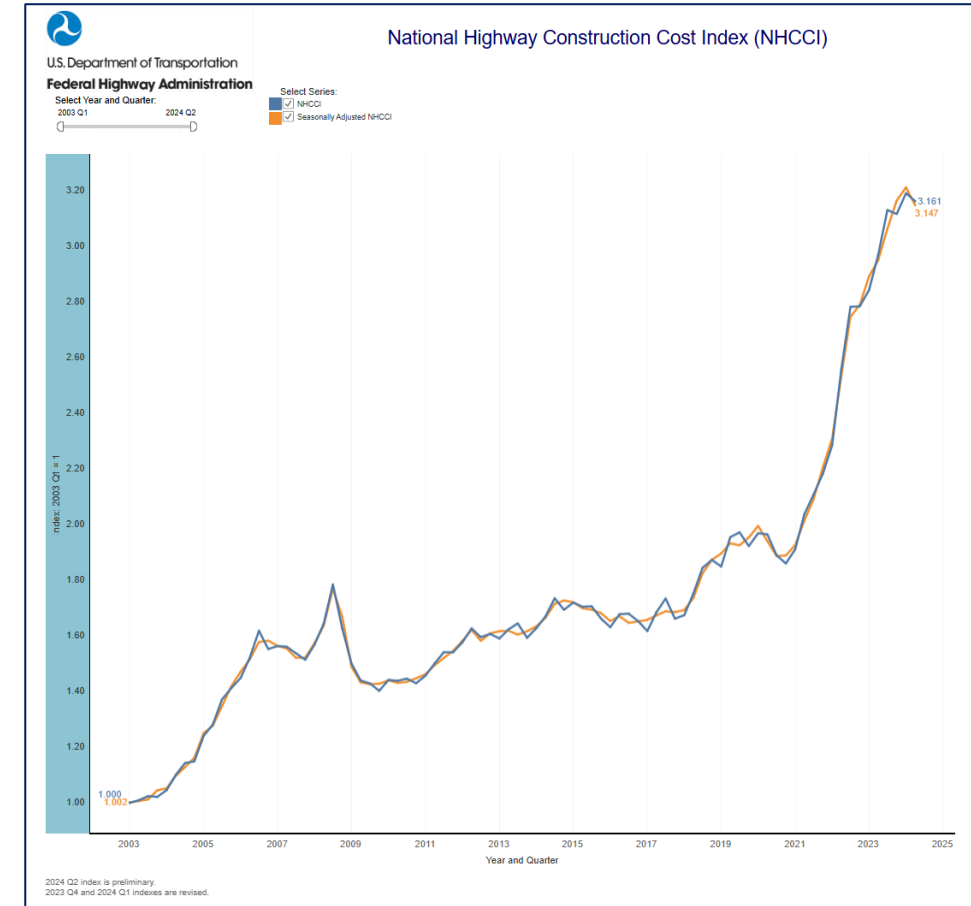
Cost Estimation Challenges

Many challenges with Cost Estimates over past 5 years

- Poor initial estimates
- Large increases as projects are developed
- Challenges due to inflation and market conditions
- Estimates not updated in a timely manner

Resulted in hundreds of project delays/cancellations and very few new projects

- 2024-2033 STIP – No new projects (P6 cancelled)
- 2026-2035 STIP – New projects only in 4 of 22 STI categories

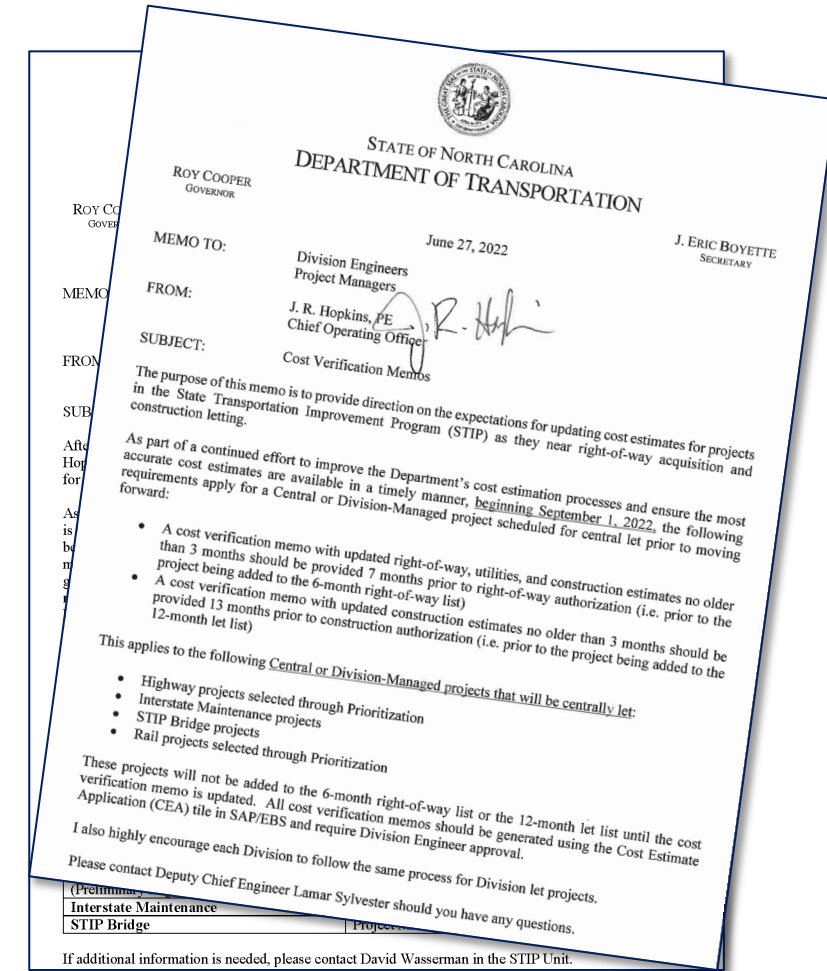


Cost Estimation Improvements

NCDOT has made many Cost Estimation Improvements over past 5 years

- Require engineering analysis (Express Design) before new projects are in Final STIP
- Estimates updated on a regular schedule (min. every 2 years or as project advances)
- Construction estimates now based on latest bid averages (started March 2024)
- Express Designs being performed for projects submitted for Prioritization

Confident Scope and Cost Estimate is a continuation of improvements



Confident Scope and Cost Estimate (CSCE)

What is the CSCE?

- New milestone in Project Delivery for Projects Selected through Prioritization
- Ensures agreement on project scope at the appropriate time
- Helps create confidence in cost estimate since scope should not change once achieved
- Future Goal - Project should have approved CSCE to be eligible to be programmed in STIP as Scheduled for Delivery

Goal/Expected Outcomes

- Fewer/smaller cost increases
- Fewer project delays due to funding availability
- More stability within the STIP
- Allowing projects to be implemented on schedule
- More accurately plan/budget for future projects in the STIP

When is the Appropriate Time to Document CSCE

All projects are unique, so timing may be based on the type of project

- For very basic projects – Turn Lane or Signal Installation Projects
 - Scope & cost estimate could be based on an Express Design
- For complex projects – Widening or single Alternative Projects
 - Scope & cost estimate could be based on Design Recommendation Plan Set (DRPS – 25% Plans)
 - **Majority of projects will fit in this category**
 - Standard for all LAPs for consistency across the state
- For larger projects – Multiple Alternatives that require LEDPA and/or Public involvement Projects
 - Scope & cost estimate could be based on selection of Alternative

Factors to Consider in Determining the Timing of a CSCE

- Stakeholder Engagement – Public, Local Officials, Resource Agencies, Project Specific
- Project Scoping Meeting
- Railroad Coordination
- Environmental Recommendations – Natural and Human
- Geotechnical Recommendations
- Hydraulic Recommendations
- Risk Assessment Worksheet
- Complete Street Recommendations
- Traffic Capacity and Typical Section
- Design and Constructability
- Structure Recommendations
- Septic, Wells, GeoEnvironmental, Other
- Easements and Agreements
- Right of Way and Utility Impacts

Project Definition Document (PDD)

PDD is the form used for CSCE:

- Project purpose and objectives
- Scope of work
- Once approved, project scope should not change
- Only minor tweaks/adjustments moving forward
- PDD could be revisited if project scope changes are required (not person changes)
 - If changes results in increased costs, adjustments to project schedule for the project (or other projects) may be needed

PROJECT DEFINITION DOCUMENT

PROJECT NAME

Project ID: ID# Date:

Primary Description:

Primary Funding Source(s):

Project Lead: ☐ Central Managed Project ☐ Division Managed Project Division:

NCDOT Division Engineer: NCDOT Project Manager:

PROJECT PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE
Develop 3-5 "big picture" project goals that express purpose.

A short statement of 2-3 sentences:
• **What** is to be accomplished
• **When** is letting
• **How much** will it cost (include construction period)

SCOPE OF PROJECT WORK
List major project improvements that define the construction work to be accomplished to satisfy the project goals.
Should include "does not include statements".

PROJECT DELIVERY METHOD: ☐ Design / Bid / Build ☐ Design Build ☐ Progressive Design Build
☐ CMGC (Construction Manager / General Contractor) ☐ Other

ENVIRONMENTAL DOC. TYPE: ☐ CE ☐ EA ☐ EIS

VERIFIED PROJECT COST ESTIMATE

Preliminary Engineering (Guidance to be developed)	
ROW	
Utilities	
Construction	
Total Project Cost Estimate	\$ 0.00
STIP Programmed Amount	

POTENTIAL PROJECT RISKS:
List major potential project risks to the project budget and/or schedule, or attach risk register if complex project.

To Be Updated

Cost Verification Memos (CVMs)

PDD is submitted as part of the Cost Verification Memos

- Approval of the CSCE occurs when Division Engineer approves the associated CVM
- New statement to indicate if estimate is for the CSCE



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

JOSH STEIN
GOVERNOR

J.R. "JOEY" HOPKINS
SECRETARY

September 29, 2025

MEMO TO: Teresa M. Robinson, PE
STIP Western Region Manager, Program Development

FROM: Hannah K. Smith, PE
Project Manager, Division 13

SUBJECT: Cost Verification – STIP Project I-5990, Burke County
I-40 AT EXIT 118 - SR 1761 (OLD NC 10). (COMB W/BR-0151). CONSTRUCT
INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS.

STI Funding Category: Division
STIP Status: Scheduled for Delivery
Letting Type: Division Design Raleigh Let (DDRL)

Verified Cost Estimate

Phase	Initial Estimate ¹	Previous Verified Estimate ²	Latest Verified Estimate ³	Latest Estimate and Previous Estimate Difference ⁴		Latest Estimate Date	Current Activity Start Date
				(\$)	(%)		
Right-of-Way	\$2,537,000	\$2,500,000	\$6,400,000	\$3,900,000	156.0%	5/16/2025	2/18/2026 (E)
Utilities	\$500,000	\$1,100,000	\$900,000	(\$200,000)	-18.2%	6/5/2025	2/18/2026 (E)
Construction	\$10,355,000	\$9,600,000	\$19,800,000	\$10,200,000	106.3%	7/1/2025	2/16/2027 (E)
Total	\$13,392,000	\$13,200,000	\$27,100,000	\$13,900,000	105.3%		

Preliminary Engineering Stage: Stage I - Express Design / Conceptual Estimate

This estimate is the Confident Scope and Cost Estimate (CSCE) for the project.

The difference between the latest and previous estimated costs is:

Changed selected alternative based on public engagement in 2022 & 2023. Latest estimate reflects updated quantities and unit prices for new proposed alternative.

Latest Right-of-Way estimate prepared by: Sean Ward & Associates, Inc.
Latest Utilities estimate prepared by: Nick Asaro with JMT
Latest Construction estimate prepared by: Chris Smith

Approved by: Timothy W. Anderson, , Division Engineer, Division 13 on 09/29/2025 01:04 PM

Estimates Located at:
<https://connect.ncdot.gov/site/preconstruction/division/div13/I-5990%20I-40%20Exit%20118/ProjectCostEstimates/Forms/AllItems.aspx>

1. The estimate used in the latest Prioritization Cycle or the initial STIP estimate for all other projects.
2. The estimate used in the previous cost verification memo. This value should be blank if this memo is the first verified estimate or zero if there is no cost for the phase.
3. The most current estimate. This value may be the same as the previous estimate if no changes have occurred since the last update or the value may be for a phase that has been previously authorized.
4. If the previous verified estimate value is blank or zero, the difference is calculated by comparing the latest verified estimate and the initial estimate.
5. (C) = Completed; (E) = Estimated date

Projects Currently Scheduled for Delivery (2026-2035 STIP)

Goal is to make sure projects Scheduled for Delivery are moving forward

475 Projects Selected through Prioritization are Scheduled for Delivery (as of 9/2/25)

- ~175 have achieved ROW Plans Complete (RPC) milestone (considered to have achieved **CSCE**)
- ~300 have not achieved RPC milestone
 - Most were Scheduled for Delivery (aka committed) from P3, P4, or P5

Expectation:

By September 30, 2027, all projects Scheduled for Delivery should achieve their CSCE or they may be subject to re-evaluation in P9

- a few exceptions possible based on specific circumstances

Next Steps

NCDOT will inform MPOs, RPOs, and local govts of this expectation for LAPs (for projects selected through Prioritization)

- Remember – Goal is to deliver the projects already programmed
- STIP Unit staff to reach out regarding upcoming presentations to TCC (dependent on # of projects)

Continue Updating Cost Estimates

- Currently ~120 projects with CON estimates older than March 1, 2024
- March 1, 2024 is the date the new CON cost methodology was implemented (using recent bid data)
- **Expectation is for all ~120 projects to be updated by February 28, 2026** (coincide with 2 yr update)

TIP Approvals



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TIP Approvals

STIP Unit staff have been reviewing TIP Approvals/Resolutions to assist FHWA/FTA:

- Working with MPOs to ensure they submit all required information

Once NCDOT has all items each MPO, we then send to FHWA for their review

- As of Oct. 20th, 11 or 19 packages have been sent to FHWA

Once all packages have been initially reviewed by NCDOT and FHWA, full STIP/TIP package will be sent to FHWA/FTA for approval

- Anticipate 2026-2035 STIP approval in December or January

Carbon Reduction Program Funded Projects



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Carbon Reduction Program Funded Projects

FFY 26 is last year of IIJA → Not sure if CRP funds will be available in FFY 27

- Could be available if CRP is in next authorization act or IIJA is extended (no guarantees)

All projects funded with CRP funds in FFY 26+ must be on track to obligate funds by June 15, 2026 (to aid with NCDOT's August Redistribution request)

- Status check on May 1, 2026
- If as of May 1, 2026, project will not meet the June 15th date, CRP funds will be allocated to another project
- Project that does not meet June 15th date risks losing CRP funds if they're not available in FFY 27
- Deadlines are for CRP-AnyArea, CRP<5K, and CRP 5K to 50K funds

[Hopefully] by May 1, 2026, we'll have a better idea on a new authorization act or extension of IIJA

Pedestrian Safety Call for Projects



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Pedestrian Safety Call for Projects

Submittal window October 6 - November 14

Projects can be located in any population area under 200,000

- Funding availability varies between (<5K, 5K to 50K, and 50K to 200K areas)

Projects must be ready to obligate funds for Construction by June 2026

Types of projects:

- Marked crosswalks, curb ramps, visibility enhancements or traffic control at crossings
- Marked crosswalks, curb ramps and pedestrian WALK phasing at signalized intersections
- Improved crossings at unsignalized or midblock locations

<https://connect.ncdot.gov/resources/safety/Pages/Pedestrian-Safety-Project-Call.aspx>

Questions?
