



**NORTH CAROLINA**  
Department of Transportation

# **NCDOT Feasibility Studies Unit Update:** NCARPO Quarterly Meeting

**Matt Quesenberry**

February 26, 2026

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

## Open Discussion

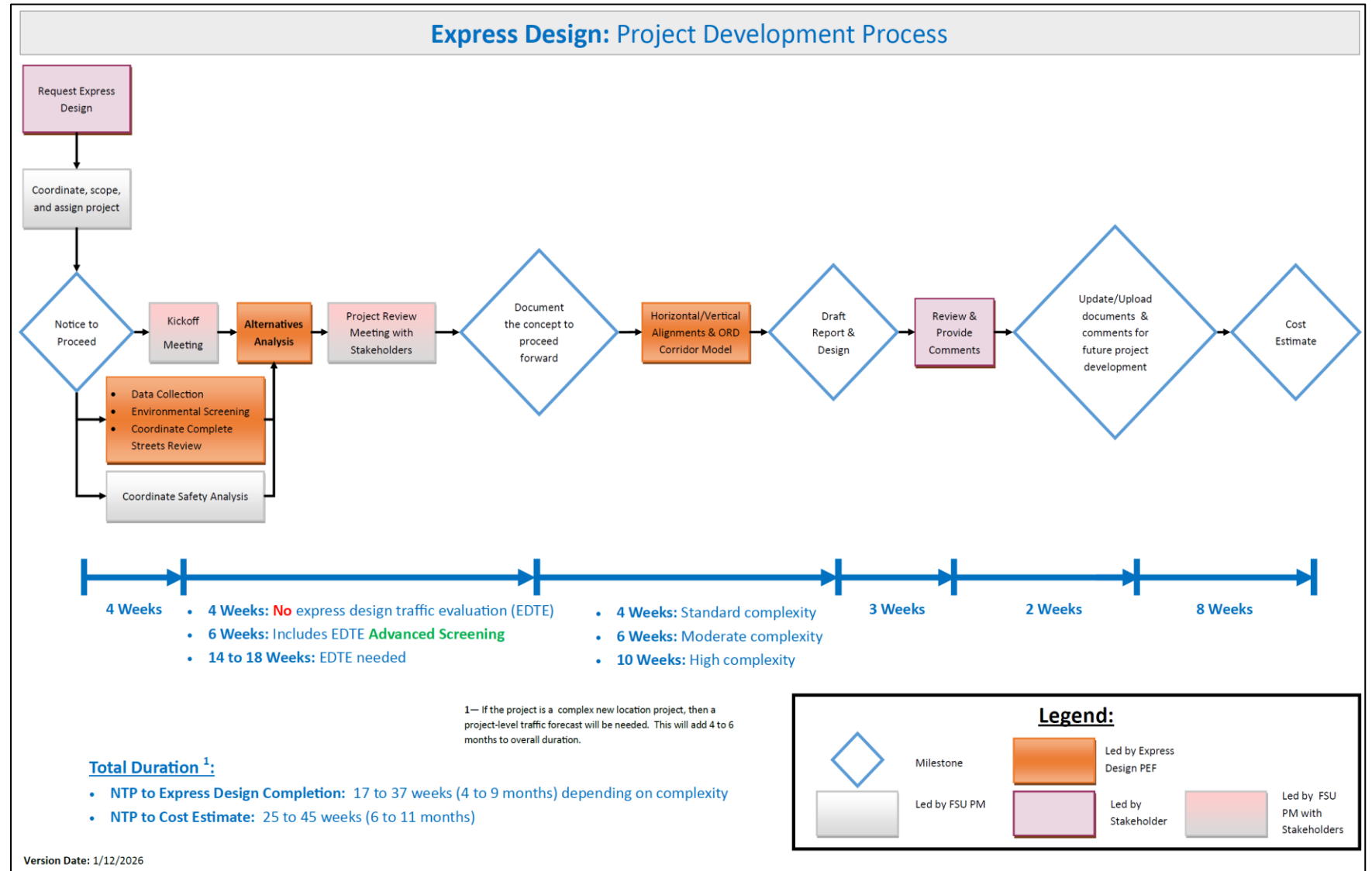
- Over 200 express designs requested to-date
- Approximately 170 express designs active
- Discussion: How are things going so far?



# Refined Express Design Process

## Process Diagram

- Summer 2025: Initial draft developed
- Fall/Winter 2025: Solicited partner feedback
- **Focus:** Streamlined multidiscipline process with improved collaboration and consistency



# Refined Express Design Process

## Next Steps

- Goal: Full guidance to be updated mid-2026
- Currently: Interim guidance provided to firms in January 2026 to ensure critical aspects of process being executed
  - For instance: ensuring consistency in who is invited to meetings.
- [FSU Webpage](#) is now public-facing
- Next Step: Seek feedback from MPOs, RPOs, and divisions on interim guidance as we work towards full guidance update.



### NCDOT Feasibility Studies Unit: Express Design Interim Guidance & Development Process

#### Overview

This memo provides an overview of interim guidance information and a process diagram that has been developed by the NCDOT Feasibility Studies Unit (FSU) to provide consistency and transparency during express design development. These process improvements will better define an express design's scope of work, improve schedule reliability, and efficiently integrate multi-disciplinary tasks / stakeholder engagement to inform concept and cost development.

#### Roles & Responsibilities:

The following are the two roles that are responsible for the management and execution of the express design process and delivery. Other roles and responsibilities are defined in the overall Express Design & Project Scoping Process Guidance.

- **NCDOT FSU Project Manager (PM):** Provides direction and oversight for project, manages the scope, schedule, and budget, and provides quality assurance.
  - **Note:** If there is an externally developed express design (i.e., not managed by FSU), then this role would belong to the unit's or organization's project manager.
- **Express Design Private Engineering Firm (PEF):** "Production Manager" who produces the deliverables, adheres to expectations (scope, schedule, and budget) established by the FSU PM, and ensures that quality control is completed.

#### Interim Guidance:

The following is interim guidance that enhances FSU's current guidance ([Express Design Project Scoping Guidance](#)) in a few key areas (listed below). If the topic is not specifically addressed below, then please use the current guidance (or ask your FSU PM for clarification).

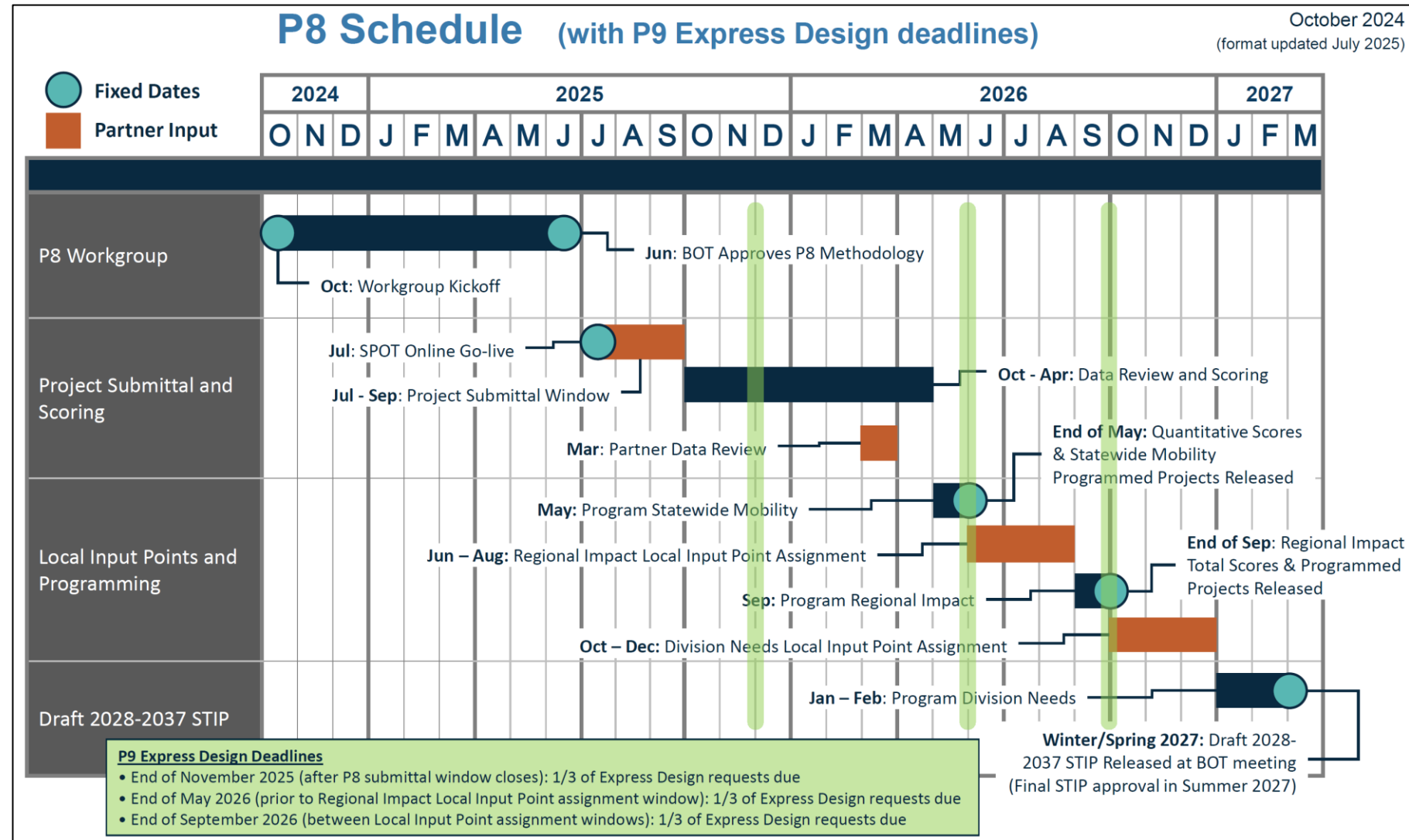
The [Express Design Project Scoping Guidance](#) (December 2023) is still the current guidance but will eventually be updated to incorporate this interim guidance. If the topic is addressed below, then it supersedes the December 2023 guidance.

1. **Scoping the Project:** A scope, schedule, and budget is required for every project. Please complete the [Express Design Scope of Work](#) prior to completing any work, which the project team will use to advance project delivery.
  - a. The scope of work document supersedes the previously used assignment checklists.
  - b. The scope of work should be developed and approved as a draft document prior to the kickoff meeting. It will then be reviewed, approved, and updated (if needed) following the kickoff meeting.
  - c. Express designs and express design traffic evaluations (EDTEs) will be scoped separately. However, please work with the FSU PM to account for potential EDTEs in the express design schedule (if appropriate).

# Express Design Request Deadlines

## Schedule

- Next Deadline (currently): May 31, 2026
- Proposal: Push back to June 30, 2026
- Time to review P8 statewide scores before making requests.
- Final Deadline: Can review as we get closer after the next deadline passes.



# Contact Us

---

**Matt Quesenberry**

mnquesenberry@ncdot.gov

919-707-4663

 [ncdot.gov](https://www.ncdot.gov)

 [@NCDOT](https://twitter.com/NCDOT)

 [ncdotcom](https://www.instagram.com/ncdotcom)

 [NCDOTcommunications](https://www.youtube.com/NCDOTcommunications)

 [ncdotcom](https://www.soundcloud.com/ncdotcom)

 [@NCDOT](https://www.facebook.com/NCDOT)

 [NCDOT](https://www.linkedin.com/company/NCDOT)

 [NCDOTcommunications](https://www.discord.com/NCDOTcommunications)

 [View All Channels](#)