

Information Item

Date: March 14, 2023

To: Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Members of the City Council

From: Aaron King, Assistant City Manager
Toneq' McCullough, P.E., Director of Transportation

Subject:
North Carolina Transportation Summit Update

Strategic Focus Area: Quality Transportation

Strategic Objective: No

Strategic Plan Action Item: No

Key Work Item: No



The North Carolina Department of Transportation, in partnership with NC GO! hosted the fourth annual N.C. Transportation Summit. It was held on Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 18-19, 2023, at the Raleigh Convention Center. The theme was: “Moving from Vision to Reality at the Speed of Change”. Winston- Salem Department of Transportation sent several staff members to attend. The Summit included four (4) General Sessions and eight (8) Breakout Sessions. All sessions were recorded and are available online at:

<https://www.ncdot.gov/news/nc-transportation-summit/Pages/default.aspx>

The following is a summary from staff’s perspective on a few of the sessions.

Why N.C.? Transportation's Role in Economic Development

Introduction: Lisa Mathis, N.C. Board of Transportation, Division 8

Moderator: Christopher Chung, Economic Development Partnership of NC

Panelists: Sean Suggs, Toyota Battery Manufacturing, North Carolina, President

Brad Kohn, Wolfspeed, Inc., General Counsel and Corporate Secretary

Van Anh Nguyen, VinFast Manufacturing U.S., CEO

In this session the panelist discussed transportation’s role in economic development and emphasized that along with site availability and readiness, the speed of development, qualified workforce and educational resources are other key factors in site selection. Additionally, the existing quality of surface transportation assets and positive indicators that future maintenance of road assets would remain strong were also very key in their decision to move to North Carolina.

Using Data to Improve Transportation Safety, Programming and Finances

Introduction: Pat Molamphy, N.C. Board of Transportation, At-Large

Moderator: Kevin Lacy, NCDOT, Director of Strategic Planning and Programming

Panelists: Brett Boston, FORO, Founder Alan Jacobson, Alteryx, Chief Data and Analytics Officer, and Gil West, Cruise, Chief Operating Officer

In this session the panelist discussed that defining a clear purpose for the end use of the datasets is critical when cleaning datasets but also when creating new ones. Another key takeaway was the importance of having an open mind to the multiple conclusions that can be derived from the same datasets and avoiding a single version of the truth.

Reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled/Ensuring Environmental Justice

Moderator: Jen Weiss, NCDOT, Senior Advisor for Climate Change Policy

Panelists: Mayor Damon Seils, Town of Carrboro, Virginia Guidry, N.C. Department of Health & Human Services, Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Branch Head, and Olatunji Oboi Reed, The Equiticity Racial Equity Movement, President & Chief Executive Officer

In this session the key takeaway was the need to make our transportation funding resources as strong for transit, bicycle and pedestrians as they are for highways. Even at the municipality level the panelist noted that many of our city codes are written such that it is easier to build single family residential than denser forms of development that would promote the use of transit and bicycle/pedestrian forms of transportation.

Hiring & Competing for Workforce Post-COVID

Introduction: Grady Hunt, N.C. Board of Transportation, Division 6

Moderator: Amanda Olive, NCDOT, Human Resources Director

Panelists: Jeff Pelton, Washington State Department of Transportation, Office of Human Resources and Safety Director, Dr. Hilary Nixon, San Jose University, Mineta Transportation Institute, Deputy Executive Director, Sharny Singh, Amazon, Senior Site Manager, and Jon Lemon, SAS, Principal Industry Consultant

In this session the panelist discussed the need for DOTs to invest in K-12 age groups by organizing field trips or summer camps to get kids interested in the work we do early on. For current job seekers work-life balance and flexibility such work from home are important and attractive assets.

NC Go! Session: Communicating Mileage-Based User Fees

Introduction: Andy Wells, N.C. Board of Transportation, At-Large

Moderator: Marc Finlayson, NC Go! Chair

Panelists: Dr. Trish Hendren, Eastern Transportation Corridor Coalition, Executive Director, Jennifer Rash, PRR, Director, Transportation West, and Ted Bristol, MBUF Alliance, Director of Operations

In this session the main takeaway was the need for better communication on how such a system would work while explaining why the gas tax is no longer a sustainable way to pay for transportation.