

Conference Committee Report House Bill 1030, 2016 Appropriations Act Selected Highlights for Transportation

The FY 2016-17 budget for the Department of Transportation includes net combined Highway Fund and Highway Trust Fund appropriations of \$3.4 billion, which is \$159.6 million (5%) above the amount enacted for FY 2015-16.

The following selected Transportation highlights may be found in **Section K** of the 2016 Conference Committee Report (page and item numbers noted); selected special provisions may be found in **Part XXXV** of H.B. 1030 (section references are noted):

Department of Transportation Conference Committee Report

- Appropriates \$10 million to establish a systemwide reserve for vessel replacement, match federal funding to initiate passenger-only service between Hatteras and Ocracoke, and fund other capital improvements to the ferry system. **(Page K-9, Item #8)**
- Increases recurring funding by \$13.8 million to the Freight Rail & Rail Crossing Safety Improvement Fund. **(K-9, #11)**
- Increases recurring funding by \$14.8 million for general aviation airport development. **(K-10, #12)**
- Appropriates \$5 million to advance and promote Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) modernization initiatives targeting call center responsiveness, wait time reductions in driver license offices, and due process improvements for medical reviews. **(K-8 & K-9, #4-6)**
- Consolidates three maintenance accounts to give Division engineers more flexibility in meeting their maintenance needs. **(K-10, #13-15)**
- Increases recurring funding by \$32 million for the Strategic Transportation Investments (STI) fund. **(K-15, #26)**

Provisions from H.B. 1030

- Continues tolling on currently-tolled ferry routes and prohibits future tolling of currently-untolled ferry routes, except for the new Hatteras-Ocracoke passenger route. Establishes recurring funding for vessel replacements and funds the initiation of the Hatteras-Ocracoke passenger service. Also authorizes the Ferry Division to charge \$150 for priority boarding passes for commercial vehicles. **(Sec 35.1)**
- Removes a \$500,000 cap on State expenditures for STI-eligible light rail projects funded by the Highway Trust Fund, requires previously-submitted light rail projects to be resubmitted under the next round of prioritization (P5.0), and sets maximum State funding for light rail and commuter rail transit projects at 10% of the total project cost. **(Sec 35.12)**