NORTH CAROLINA
Department of Transportation

Division 1

COUNTIES SERVED | Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hertford, Hyde, Martin, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell, Washington

February 2026 Edition

Kitchen Table Idea Sparks an Innovative Solution

A simple moment at the kitchen table sparked an innovative solution for an **N.C. Department of Transportation bridge project in Haywood County.**

When traditional bat roosting boxes beneath the old Pigeon River bridge couldn't be incorporated into a new Interstate 40 design, resident engineer Kenny McCourt, with a little inspiration from his daughter, reimagined the bridge's retaining wall as a built-in habitat for endangered bats.

What followed was a coordinated, multi-agency collaboration between NCDOT, wildlife agencies and construction partners to create naturalized roosting spaces directly into the new High Bridge. Within days of installation, bats — including an endangered gray bat — began exploring their new home.

The creative design not only supports wildlife conservation but could serve as a model for future projects across North Carolina and beyond.

NCDOT Refines Statewide EV Charging Plan

NCDOT officials are shifting their strategy to expand electric vehicle charging access where it's needed most. With updated federal guidance providing more flexibility, NCDOT plans to scale back new stations along already built-out interstate corridors and redirect more of the state's $109 million National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) funding to rural communities, underserved areas and highways with limited coverage.

The department will move forward with 16 additional sites along alternative fuel corridors while prioritizing new investments in areas with fewer existing chargers.

A request for proposals is expected in late March, giving private partners the opportunity to help strengthen and expand North Carolina's statewide EV charging network.

Alligator River Bridge Replacement Project Update

One Year Later - All Bridge Piles in Place

The first pile for the Alligator River Bridge replacement project was driven into the river bed a year ago. Today, all 710 bridge piles are in place. Next up: columns, caps and bridge decks! The new bridge is set to open to traffic in the fall of 2028.

See Video Update

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