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):

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- 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)