



transportation TRACKS

Defending the Zone: ITRE Joins NWZAW to Protect Every Life on the Road

ITRE recently joined the Governor’s Highway Safety Program (GHSP) and other state partners at the I-95 South Welcome Center to observe National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW) 2026. Centered on the national theme, “Safe Actions, Save Lives,” the event was strategically held along the I-95 corridor to put critical safety messaging directly in front of thousands of motorists. Beyond the press conference, the week served as a powerful reminder that safety in work zones is a shared responsibility between agencies, workers, and the driving public.

Honoring Those We Have Lost

A cornerstone of the week was the **Work Zone Memorial**, which honors the diverse lives lost in roadway incidents. This memorial recognizes that work zone tragedies impact everyone—including roadway workers, motorists, pedestrians, law enforcement officers, public safety officials (firefighters and paramedics), and children.

Category	Statistic
Five-Year Toll (2020–2025)	215 fatalities / 38,900 crashes
2025 Total Fatalities	28 people killed
2025 Fatality Breakdown	13 Motorists, 8 Pedestrians, 7 Workers



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Technology Transfer Newsletter

Published by the North Carolina Local Technical Assistance Program at the Institute for Transportation Research and Education at North Carolina State University

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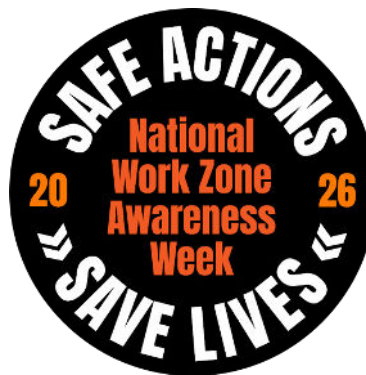


How ITRE Training Saves Lives

ITRE's participation in NWZAW is a natural extension of the vital work performed by NC LTAP and training for NCDOT. Our training programs are a frontline defense against roadway tragedies:

- **Reducing Human Error:** Specialized courses in temporary traffic control and work zone installation ensure zones are intuitive and visible.
- **Empowering Supervisors:** Training field leaders to identify hazards before they lead to accidents, directly protecting the lives of their crews.
- **Cultivating a Safety Culture:** Helping professionals implement "Safe Actions" that mitigate the risks of high-speed traffic and distracted driving.

By bridging the gap between technical training and public awareness, ITRE continues to play a critical role in ensuring that every worker—and every traveler—makes it home safely at the end of the day.



What's Wrong With This Picture?

Can you tell what's wrong with this picture? See answer on page 6.



Feds Announce \$100M to Support Public Transit During World Cup

Summary

FIFA World Cup host cities in the United States will receive \$100.3 million from the Federal Transit Administration to support planning, operating, and capital expenses tied to this summer's tournament. The funding amounts are based on each stadium's capacity and the number of matches hosted. The largest share, \$10.4 million, goes to the New York City and New Jersey area for MetLife Stadium, while the smallest, \$8.4 million, goes to the Puget Sound region for games at Lumen Field in Seattle.

"DOT is doing its part to ensure the United States is ready to host the most spectacular World Cup in history," U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said in a statement. "We're proud to partner with host cities to provide fans with a seamless travel experience that will be part of the memories they cherish from attending these historic games."

The government says the funding is meant to move fans efficiently and present the U.S. "at its best." The money, part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026, can reimburse only public transit services and capital expenses directly related to the World Cup. Other U.S. venues receiving funding include stadiums in Texas, California, Georgia, Florida, Massachusetts, Missouri, and Pennsylvania. The funding is intended to support transit needs tied to hosting World Cup matches across the country.

[Learn More](#)

National Public Works Week: May 17th – 23rd

Reprint

National Public Works Week (NPWW) has ballooned in reach and impact across the decades. The number of participating municipalities continues to grow, which means the number of citizens educated on the importance and nature of public works grows. Across North America, APWA's more than 30,000 members in the US and Canada use this week to raise awareness about the importance and criticality of public works in our daily lives: planning, building, managing and operating at the heart of their local communities to improve everyday quality of life.

Since 1960, APWA has sponsored NPWW the third week of May. In 1962, President John F. Kennedy issued a proclamation describing public works as vitally important to our national health and welfare and praising the dedicated efforts of public works professionals. Further, "it is in the public interest for the citizens and civic leaders of this country to gain knowledge of and to maintain a progressive interest in the public works needs and programs of their respective communities," the proclamation reads.

APWA encourages public works agencies and professionals to amplify their stories in their communities this NPWW by using our how-to guide and downloadable assets. The sentiments of JFK's 1962 proclamation ring as true today as they did then. In fact, the occasion of NPWW continues to be marked each year with scores of resolutions and APWA is proud to announce the theme

"Rooted in Service, Powered by Community" for National Public Works Week, May 17–23, 2026. The roots of service run deep in public works. It's what has propelled public works innovations that have helped our communities evolve into places where people can lead lives of purpose and possibility. Some work—like building roads and bridges—is highly visible, while other public works contributions—like maintaining water and sewer systems—are sometimes hidden from view. Together, these efforts form the foundation of thriving communities, reminding us that every project, seen or unseen, powers the connection between service and the people it supports.

The theme "Rooted in Service, Powered by Community" reminds us that public works professionals are motivated to serve the communities that they love and that power them to always do their best. Whether serving as first responders, responding to electricity outages, providing regular waste pickup, or making roads and sidewalks passable after a winter weather event, public works puts service at the forefront for their community.



Christina Koch Gives NC State's HPRC a View From the Stars

Summary

Christina Koch is one of four astronauts selected for the Artemis II mission, NASA's first crewed mission to orbit the Moon since the Apollo era. She began her academic career at North Carolina State University, where she earned two B.S. degrees in electrical engineering and physics, as well as an M.S. in electrical engineering. After completing her education, Koch went on to build a career that included work in remote scientific environments and, eventually, selection as a NASA astronaut.

As Mission Specialist I aboard the Orion spacecraft, she is expected to become the first woman to orbit the Moon. Koch has previously spent extended time aboard the International Space Station, where she participated in scientific research and spacewalks. During one of her missions, she brought NC State stickers and a flag, which were later photographed alongside views of the station and Earth, documenting the items' presence in orbit.



Launch of Workplace Safety Initiative to Prevent Struck-By Injuries and Fatalities

Reprint

Labor Commissioner Luke Farley announced the implementation of a new workplace safety initiative aimed at reducing struck-by injuries and fatalities in workplaces across North Carolina. The initiative will strategically target struck-by hazards in both general industry and construction.

The announcement was made at ABB in Mebane, a Carolina Star site recognized by the NC Department of Labor for its strong safety and health programs. ABB recently renovated its warehouse into a Very Narrow Aisle (VNA) Warehouse, a system designed to minimize worker exposure to moving equipment and falling materials through automated controls that manage speed, positioning, and stability within confined aisles.



Labor Commissioner Luke Farley announces new workplace safety initiative.

"In the last two years, struck-by incidents have overtaken falls from heights as the leading cause of workplace injuries and deaths in North Carolina," said Labor Commissioner Farley. "Recognizing this troubling trend, I've directed our Occupational Safety & Health (OSH) Division to establish a special workplace safety initiative aimed to eliminate struck-by incidents through education, outreach, and targeted enforcement. We're working proactively to ensure every worker in North Carolina goes home safe at the end of the day."

Struck-by incidents—which involve workers being hit by materials, tools, or equipment—too often result in serious injury or death. In response, NCDOL's new workplace safety initiative strengthens efforts to strategically target and eliminate these preventable hazards.



Accreditation in Public Works: Much More than Meets the Eye

Summary

In public works, a solid documentation framework is the foundation that keeps risk management, institutional knowledge, and leadership continuity on track. Accreditation ensures agencies meet critical, often life-sustaining responsibilities that may go unnoticed until it's too late. It also has a cultural impact, helping teams feel happier and more confident in their work. The evaluation and nationally recognized practice review process verifies compliance with the Public Works Management Practices Manual while promoting continuous self-improvement. For departments like Wyandotte County's, that ongoing improvement is a key part of their culture. Along with cultural benefits, accreditation brings noticeable gains in confidence and credibility. *This week's episode of Public Works Radio* explores these benefits and what they look like in practice, along with the show's mission to educate, inspire, and make public works more visible to everyone.

[Learn More](#)

“At ABB, safety comes first—always. Every employee has the power to stop work if conditions aren’t right,” said Julia Des Chenes, Manufacturing Unit Manager at ABB. “As we grow, we’re investing in the right tools and technologies to keep our teams safer. We design our processes around how people actually work, and we’re laser-focused on eliminating struck-by accidents. Our people’s safety isn’t just a priority—it’s the key to our success.”

Year One: Strategy and Outreach

During the first year of the workplace safety initiative, NCDOL will focus on developing strategies that support statewide struck-by injury prevention goals. This work will include developing comprehensive compliance inspection guidance and materials, notifying affected industries and employers, and providing enhanced outreach through consultation, education, and training services. This foundational work will ensure consistent enforcement practices while supporting job creators in identifying and mitigating struck-by hazards.

Struck-By Task Force Leadership

The Struck-By Task Force reflects a strong, agency-wide commitment to addressing struck-by hazards. Commissioner Farley has emphasized the importance of reducing preventable workplace injuries and fatalities through focused leadership and cross-bureau collaboration. The Task Force’s structure ensures accountability and alignment across all key divisions to advance this critical safety initiative.



Wilmington Bridge Renamed for Cornelius E. Nixon

Reprint

In Wilmington NC, a bridge is getting a new name, honoring a man who helped shape the community for decades. The N.C. Department of Transportation held a dedication ceremony for the Military Cutoff bridge over Market Street in Wilmington in honor of Cornelius E. Nixon. He was a lifelong Wilmington resident who opened the county’s first oyster shucking facility, Nixon’s Oyster Plant on Market Street. “This bridge will stand as a lasting tribute to his life, and as a reminder of the legacy that he leaves behind only for his family, for the entire community and for future generations,” said Trevor Carroll, division engineer for the N.C. Department of Transportation. Nixon’s Oyster Plant served the community for more than 55 years, until Nixon’s passing in 2011.

[Learn More](#)

NC Pushes Rail Expansion, Including Chance to Take A Train to the Beach

Reprint

Officials are looking to expand the state’s rail network, including routes that would better connect Raleigh to Greenville, Hamlet, Morehead City, Weldon and Winston-Salem to Charlotte. Under the Federal Railroad Administration program, the federal government could cover up to 80% of costs, the remaining 20% paid by state or local governments.

North Carolina’s existing Amtrak Piedmont and Carolinian services are at the highest ridership in 35 years, with a 59% increase since 2019, showing strong public demand for intercity rail, according to transportation officials. The state has been studying the feasibility of trips to the coast, focusing on Wilmington to start. “We’ve heard from communities across the state ... they are interested in seeing that type of service come to their community,” Jason Orthner, director of the North Carolina Department of Transportation’s rail division, told lawmakers during a recent hearing before a transportation oversight committee. Most projects remain in early planning and federal review, and no construction timelines have been finalized, according to NCDOT.



What's Wrong With This Picture?

Submitted by Lee Thomas



The work zone in the photo was installed on NC-690 between Vass, NC and Spring Lake, NC. It is a two-lane, two-way roadway with multiple curves. In addition, this road has a 55 MPH speed with moderate average daily traffic. The installers placed the appropriate signs in the advanced warning area, and the work was completed in the right-hand lane. Given this information, what do you think is wrong with the photo? If you take a closer look in the right-hand lane, then you will notice that a car is located inside the buffer area. The main reason for the vehicle entering the buffer area appears to be the lack of a one-lane, two-way taper in the Transition Area. The taper helps move motorists from the closed lane into the shared travel lane. According to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Devices (MUTCD), one-lane, two-way tapers should be 50'-100' with channelizing devices (i.e., cones, skinny drums, and drums) spaced out roughly 20'. The use of channelizing devices helps to define the new traffic pattern. By installing the one-lane, two-way taper outlined by channelizing devices, then vehicles are less likely to enter the closed lane of the work zone.

A significant piece of information was not captured in the picture. The vehicle in the buffer area started in the one-lane section of the work zone; however, the flagger tried to use their hand signals to move the vehicle back into the closed lane. The flagger used an upward sweeping motion, and it appeared that the motorist thought that hand signal was telling them to move forward. Communication between motorists and flaggers can be difficult when using only hand signals. Flaggers should be consistent with their hand signals to avoid confusing motorists. This may have been an opportunity for the flagger to use other methods to communicate with the motorist, like verbal commands. Based on my experience, no work zone is completely safe with so many variables that are outside the control of work zone installers. With that said, when the installers follow the MUTCD and flaggers find effective communication techniques, then the work zone is much safer for motorists and workers. Finally, not only does it make the work zone safer, but it also reduces the liability for agencies involved with the work zone.



Gas-Saving Myths Debunked: Experts Reveal What Really Works at the Pump

Summary

Gas prices are rising, and many drivers are searching for ways to save, but some common tips aren't as helpful or safe as they seem. WCNC Charlotte verified three popular gas myths with Patrick De Haan, a petroleum analyst with GasBuddy and AAA. De Haan said topping off your tank isn't necessary because pumps already fill vehicles to about 98% or 99%, and AAA warns overfilling can damage a car's vapor recovery system. He also said filling up on a certain day of the week won't save drivers much money, noting that prices are influenced more by the time of year and economic conditions. Concerns about off-brand gas are also largely unfounded, with De Haan saying nearly all stations sell fuel that runs just fine in vehicles. Experts said drivers are better off comparison shopping before they fill up rather than chasing daily price changes or topping off their tanks. They also emphasized that overall nutrition matters more than focusing on any single number.

[Learn More](#)

Tailgate Talk

When Your Body Gets Hot

Reprint

Information You Can Use to Prevent Accidents & Injuries

You know you're stressed out from the heat when you sweat a lot, have muscle spasms, get a headache, get tiny red bumps on your skin, or feel dizzy, weak, or sick to your stomach. If this describes you on a hot work day, drink plenty of water throughout the day. Take your rest breaks in a cool or shady area. Massage muscle cramps. Use a mild drying lotion to get rid of heat rash. Taking salt tablets is NOT necessary. There's enough salt in your normal diet!

If a fellow worker passes out from the heat, get them into shade, loosen clothing to cool them down, and give water only when they're conscious.

What Signs Do You Notice When Your Body is Too Hot?

First, you may notice that you are tired and less mentally alert. This increases the danger of accidents. You may sweat. The body produces sweat so the evaporation will cool you off. Sweating isn't as effective if the air is very humid, because not as much sweat evaporates. Heat rash is possible. You get it when your sweat glands swell and get plugged up.

Heat Stress, Exhaustion and Stroke

If you don't pay attention to these early symptoms and get out of the heat, you can get heat stress. What does this do to your body? The first symptom is usually heat cramps. If you don't replace the fluids and salts (called electrolytes) that you lost by sweating, you may get muscle pain or muscle spasms. These are most common in the arms, legs, back, and stomach. Heat exhaustion can follow. Your whole body (especially your circulatory system) is extremely stressed out. Some possible symptoms are a pale and flushed face and neck, clammy skin, heavy sweating, fatigue, shortness of breath, headache, dizziness, or fainting, nausea, vomiting, rapid heartbeat and breathing. Heat stroke is the most serious stage of heat stress. Your body temperature shoots up. 50% of people with heat stroke die. Symptoms are: dizziness and confusion; red, hot, dry skin; nausea and vomiting; very little sweating; rapid pulse, high body temperature around 105 degrees; convulsions; fainting.

Anyone with heat stroke must be taken to a doctor or hospital immediately.

- **Heat Cramps:** Stop work, drink fluids, and rest in a cool area. Drinking Gatorade or other electrolyte replacement fluids may also help.
- **Heat Exhaustion:** Give first aid by moving the person to a cool place to rest. Remove as much clothing as possible. Give the person water. Drinking electrolyte solutions may also help. Don't allow the person to get chilled, and treat for shock if necessary. Get medical help.
- **Heat Stroke:** Call 911 to get medics immediately. Immerse the person in cool water or ice.

What To Do When Working In The Heat

Drink a lot of cool water or an electrolyte replacement drink like Gatorade. You may need a quart or more depending on conditions. Drink even if you don't feel thirsty. Take frequent breaks in an air-conditioned or shaded area. Wear appropriate clothing when you're in the sun. The best clothing is a loose, lightweight cotton shirt and pants in a light color. Wear a wide-brimmed hat in the sun. Wear a lightweight long-sleeve shirt and long pants if it's over 95 degrees. Use a sunscreen product to protect your skin from ultraviolet rays in sunlight. It should have a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 15 or more. Check the label. Limit your use of alcohol. Ask your doctor about prescription drugs you're taking.

NC LTAP News & Updates

To update your mail information, add a colleague to the database, or obtain information about Roads Scholar Program complete the form online at go.ncsu.edu/ncltapcontactform.



For more special offers and news, like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).

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Check Appropriate Items

- ☐ Add/Update email information to NCLTAP listserv NCTROADS
- ☐ Send information about Roads Scholar program
- ☐ Send schedule of training opportunities

NCTROADS Listserv

Subscribe to the NC LTAP listserv. It is free and easy. Send a message to Davison at 919-515-3983 and ask to be added to NCTROADS.

or call Kate

This is an informal network for the exchange of news about current research, discussion of problems and solutions, request for advice and assistance, and announcements of upcoming conferences, events and training opportunities for transportation personnel. Once you are subscribed, you can send a message all the listserv members at NCTROADS@lists.ncsu.edu

NC Local Technical Assistance Program

August – September 2025 Schedule

For Online Registration see calendar at: <https://itre.ncsu.edu/training/ltap-training/>

Questions or Email Registration: wewoods@ncsu.edu or kbdaviso@ncsu.edu

Course descriptions available on website.

Date	Class Title	RS/ARS/MRS	Cost	Location	To Sign Up
June 23rd	Basic Work Zone Installer	RS	\$150	Raleigh	Click Here
June 24th	Work Zone Traffic Control Supervisor Recertification	ARS	\$175	Raleigh	Click Here
June 25th	Flagger Training	RS	\$100	Raleigh	Click Here
July 6th	How to Keep Yourself and Your Agency Out of Court	ARS	\$150	ONLINE	Click Here
July 7th	How to Keep Yourself and Your Agency Out of Court	RS	\$150	ONLINE	Click Here
July 7th-9th	Work Zone Traffic Control Supervisor	RS	\$450	Raleigh	Click Here
July 8th	How to Keep Yourself and Your Agency Out of Court	ARS	\$150	ONLINE	Click Here
July 9th	ADA in Temporary Traffic Control	RS	\$100	ONLINE	Click Here
July 15th	Basic Work Zone Installer	ARS	\$150	Concord	Click Here
July 16th	Flagger Training	ARS	\$100	Concord	Click Here
July 20th-21st	OSHA 10-Hour Safety Training	ARS	\$175	Kernersville	Click Here
July 28th	Site Development & Highway Access - Introduction	ARS	\$140	Wilmington	Click Here
July 30th	Asset Management	ARS	\$150	Raleigh	Click Here
Aug 6th	Basic Concepts of Supervision	RS	\$150	Concord	Click Here
Aug 12th	Emergency Management	MRS	\$150	Raleigh	Click Here
Aug 13th	Basic Computer Skills: Reports and Presentations	RS	\$150	Raleigh	Click Here

LTAP Links on the Web

Transportation Information at your fingertips!

NC LTAP	https://itre.ncsu.edu/focus/ltap/
National LTAP/TTAP	http://www.nltapa.org/
NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT)	https://www.ncdot.gov/
Rural Road Safety Center	https://ruralsafetycenter.org/
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)	https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/
US Department of Transportation (USDOT)	https://www.transportation.gov/
UNC School of Government	https://www.sog.unc.edu/
Institute of Transportation Engineers	http://www.ite.org/
NC Section of ITE (NCSITE)	http://ncsite.org/
APWA - NC Chapter	https://northcarolina.apwa.org/
NLTAPA Tailgate Talks	https://nltapa.org/information-exchange/nltapa-tailgate-talks/

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