



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER  
GOVERNOR

JAMES H. TROGDON, III  
SECRETARY

March 12, 2018

Mr. Bill Rich  
County Manager  
County of Hyde  
PO Box 188  
Swan Quarter, NC 27885

Dear Mr. Rich,

The Ocracoke – Hatteras tram operation is key to the success of our passenger ferry project. Our partnership continues to be an important part of this success. This letter serves as documentation of our partnership commitments and expectations.

NCDOT Commitments

1. NCDOT commits to funding the tram service at  $\frac{1}{2}$  the total operating costs up to \$90,000 per year for the following years – 2018 (partial year), 2019, 2020 and 2021. This commitment will be made each year based on the costs in the contract award for operations.
2. NCDOT has provided a draft Request for Proposals for tram operations to the County Manager for the county's use in preparing their proposal for advertisement.
3. NCDOT commits to entering into an agreement regarding the tram ownership and operations.

County of Hyde Commitments

1. County of Hyde commits to funding the tram service at a minimum of  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the total operating cost required per year, based on the awarded contract costs. These costs include all maintenance costs.
2. County of Hyde will contract with a vendor to provide the service. This contract minimally includes the maintenance and upkeep of the trams and trailers, storage, electric charging stations, hiring and training operators, insurance as defined by the NC Utilities Commission, operation of the service during the contract defined period, and meeting the insurance and the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements of operating a public transportation vehicle.
3. County of Hyde will publish the tram schedule and coordinate the schedule with the Ferry Division to coincide with the arrival and departure times of the passenger ferry.
4. The County of Hyde commits to meeting the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Details about the ADA and the public transportation requirements can be found on the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) website ([www.transit.dot.gov](http://www.transit.dot.gov)). NCDOT has worked with FTA to designate this service as commuter. This means operating a deviated fixed route or complementary paratransit are not required. NCDOT will create documentation of this decision.

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The specific ADA expectations of the agreement are:

- a. Provide vendor oversight for the ADA requirements written in the Request for Proposal.
- b. Commit to installing and maintaining bus stop signs at the 8 point of interest stops in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) bus stop requirements and all permits associated with the Passenger Ferry project. Although the project permits do not allow any construction at the tram stops other than sign installation, the ADA requirements state: *If there is construction at any one of the "point of interest stops" (e.g., a pad or a shelter), then the construction would need to comply with the bus stop and shelter requirements. If locations are just designated as stops with signs and nothing is built, then you should pick the area to meet the landing pad requirements to the maximum extent possible so you can safely deploy the lift or ramp, people can get on and off the vehicle, and people can get to the nearest accessible path of travel. Since there are no sidewalks and everyone walks in the street, then the accessible path of travel would be the street and riders who use wheelchairs would just have to be able to get from the places they are deboarded to the street, and vice versa.*

If you have any questions, please let me know. We look forward to opening day!

Sincerely,



Debbie Collins  
Director, Public Transportation Division

cc: David L. Howard, Chief Deputy Secretary  
Joy Hicks, Government Affairs & Policy Director  
Julie White, Deputy Secretary for Multi-Modal Transportation  
Sterling Baker, Facilities Management Director  
Harold Thomas, Director, Ferry Division