

Resolution



Town of Carolina Beach
Town Council

RESOLUTION NO. 25-2340

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF APPROPRIATIONS TO THE NCDOT FERRY DIVISION

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation Ferry Division is a vital transportation link between Brunswick and New Hanover Counties, serving residents, commuters, and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS, in Mid-September the NC General Assembly met and could not pass a state budget and is now operating on a continuing resolution, funding state operations at a level equal to last year's recurring budget appropriations; and

WHEREAS, the NC Ferry Division's budget last year, was based on recurring funds and nonrecurring funds and the portion of the Ferry Division's budget comprised of nonrecurring funds are not available until appropriated by the NCGA through a mini-budget or until included in an approved state budget; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2026 continuation budget for the Ferry Division is \$64.66 million. This includes \$2.49 million of federal grant and state matching funds, leaving \$62.2 million available for the fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the Ferry Division will not be able to remain within budget without significant reductions to operations and maintenance activities and the NC Ferry Division will need to make cuts immediately across the entire system which could significantly impact transportation to and from Carolina Beach; and

WHEREAS, in the absence of these funds, temporary employees will be laid off and ferry routes throughout the state will experience substantial service reductions, in some cases by as much as 50%; and

WHEREAS, both the Senate and House presented favorable draft NC Ferry Division budgets, however without adoption of a state budget the route reductions will need to be made; and

WHEREAS, maintaining at least the current level of daily runs—or increasing service where possible—is vital to residents, businesses, and the tourism economy; and

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, the Town of Carolina Beach respectfully requests the following provisions be included in a spending provision to be approved by the General Assembly during their October 2025 session:

Operating and Maintenance Funding – +\$3 million

Base funding based on last year would only provide \$67 million for the current Fiscal Year and the NC Ferry Division needs \$70 million to maintain last year's level of service.

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Dry Dock Maintenance +\$4 million

An additional \$4 million in funding to be provided in a spending appropriation, to avoid other non-emergency ferry maintenance from being deferred, affecting the reliability and frequency of ferry runs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Carolina Beach urges the North Carolina Department of Transportation and the North Carolina General Assembly to continue investing in the long-term sustainability and enhancement of the state's ferry system.

ADOPTED, this 14th day of October 2025.

TOWN OF CAROLINA BEACH

Albert L. Barbee, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kimberlee Ward, Town Clerk