Application for Transportation Operating Assistance

FY2026 Rural Operating Assistance Program (ROAP) Funds

Name of Applicant (County)	Ashe
County Manager	Adam Stumb
County Manager's Email Address	administration@ashecounty.gov
County Finance Officer	Sandra Long
CFO's Email Address	finance@ashecountygov.com
CFO's Phone Number	336-846-5501
Person Completing this Application	Amanda Roten
Person's Job Title	Executive Director
Person's Email Address	Amanda.roten@actatravel.com
Person's Phone Number	336-846-2000
Community Transportation System	Ashe County Transportation Authority, Inc.
Name of Transit Contact Person	Amanda Roten
Transit Contact Person's Email Address	Amanda.roten@actatravel.com
administration of the ROAP l applicable state guidelines. I c milestone reports, and any otl	If this application is complete and accurately describes the county's Program, and the use of the ROAP funds in accordance with certify and understand that if the monthly and final monthly her status reports required by the Integrated Mobility Division is before the due dates, the next scheduled disbursement will be nitted.
and will not be used for Admi	P funds will only be used for program purposes to provide trips nistrative or Operational expenses. If it is determined that ROAF ayment of funds must be made.
Transit Director:	Manda Rotin Date: 10-13-2025 Signature
County Manager:	Signature Date:
County Finance Officer:	Signature Date:

Application Instructions

County officials should read the ROAP Program Administration Guide which contains guidance on the administration of the ROAP Program and information about the preparation of grant applications.

- The application must be completed by an official of the county or his/her designee.
- Click on the gray rectangle and type each answer. If necessary, the text will automatically wrap to the next row. The answer may wrap to the next page if necessary.
- If the county wishes to explain their response to any questions or provide more information, the county
 may include additional pages with this application form. All the pages of the application and any pages
 added by the applicant should be scanned into the same file.
- If there are questions regarding this application, contact the NCDOT-IMD Regional Grant Specialist assigned to the area served by the transit system.

FY2026 ROAP Program Schedule

Application Deadline

October 24, 2025

Anticipated Funds Disbursement

Week of November 17, 2025**

** Applications not submitted into SmartSheet by October 24th will delay disbursement of funds until the application is submitted and reviewed.

*Counties with unspent FY25 funds will retain the funds and the disbursement will be adjusted accordingly.

*Counties with 5% or less in unspent funds are eligible for a second disbursement of any unspent funds from FY25. The ROAP formula will be used to determine the amount of funds each eligible county will receive.

*Monthly reports are due via SmartSheet 30 days following reporting period (i.e., July reporting period, report due August 30th)

County's Management of ROAP Funds

County governments or regional public transportation authorities created pursuant to Article 26 or Article 26 of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes (upon written agreement with municipalities or counties served) are the only eligible applicants for ROAP funds. As a recipient of ROAP funds, the county must implement administrative processes that will ensure the following:

- ROAP funds are expended on needs identified through a public involvement and/or planning process.
- ROAP funds are expended only on eligible activities as described in Appendix A of the ROAP Guidance.
- Supporting documentation of expenditures by all sub-recipients is required.
- Service recipients meet eligibility requirements, and their eligibility is documented.
- Trips funded with ROAP funding are monitored and evaluated throughout the period of performance.
- An accounting of trips and expenditures is provided on a monthly basis to IMD with supporting documents.
- ROAP funds received and expended are included in the local annual audit.

ROAP funds shall be disbursed in the traditional program allocations in each of the ROAP programs in one disbursement however, if it is determined that a single disbursement is not possible, IMD reserves the right to change the method of distributing the funds. Counties have the flexibility to determine how the funding will be used to meet the needs of the citizens and how to sub-allocate the funding to meet the transportation needs, but

the guidelines for each program used must be followed and trips accounted for by program used. Funds transferred from one program to another become that program's funds and takes on the characteristics of the program, i.e. funds transferred into the EDTAP program become EDTAP funds and are not eligible to be transferred to another program except to match a 5310 Operating grant.

Transportation Needs and Public Involvement in Funding Decisions	Yes/No
 A. Did the county ask the Community Transportation Advisory Board (TAB), which is affiliated with the Community Transportation System, to recommend how the ROAP funds should be sub-allocated? If no, how were recommendations made and by whom (A request was made by the Executive Director and staff of the Community Transportation System to sub-allocate the funds to Ashe County Transportation Authority, Inc. to allow for continued support of transportation services for the covered populations of this program.) How many individuals assisted in the determination? 7 	No
B. Were outreach efforts conducted to inform agencies about the availability of ROAP funds and to discuss transportation needs BEFORE the county decided how to sub-allocate the ROAP funds?	Yes
B. Is the method used to sub-allocate the ROAP funds fair and equitable? Open and transparent? Explain transparency The Executive Director of the Community Transportation System attends the scheduled Board of Commissioner's meeting to request the Financial Management of ROAP Funds	Yes/No
D. Does the county pass through any ROAP funds to agencies or organizations that are not county governmental departments or agencies?	Yes
E. If yes, does the county have a written agreement with these agencies that addresses the proper use, return and accountability of these funds? (<i>Include a sample agreement with application</i>)	No
F. Do any of the organizations or departments receiving ROAP funds plan to use private transit contractors to provide the ROAP funded trips? (Their procurement practices will need to meet all federal and state requirements for procurement of professional services.)	No
G. Are ROAP funds deposited in an interest-bearing account?	Yes
H. Does the county provide local funds for transportation operating assistance to any of the ROAP sub-recipients in addition to the state ROAP funds?	No
Monitoring and Oversight Responsibilities I. Subrecipients of ROAP funds are required to provide sufficiently detailed progress reports and statistical data about trips provided and rider eligibility with ROAP funds. How frequently are these provided to the county? In what format? The County must be prepared to provide documentation that an eligible citizen was provided an eligible service or trip on the billed date, by whatever conveyance, at a specific cost. How frequently and in what form are documents collected? Reports are available upon request from the Public Transportation System.	Yes/No
J. Does the county require the subrecipients of ROAP funds to use the coordinated transportation services of the federally funded Community Transportation System operating in the county?	No

North Carolina Department of Transportation



Program Administration Guide Rural Operating Assistance Program (ROAP)

September 29, 2025

North Carolina Department of Transportation Integrated Mobility Division (IMD) 1 South Wilmington Street 1550 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-1550

This document supersedes and replaces all prior Rural Operating Assistance Program Administration Guides (previously referred to as ROAP State Management Plan) effective July 2017.

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Definitions

Administrative Expenses: An amount not directly tied to a specific function but related to the organization as a whole.

Capital Expenses: An amount spent to acquire or improve a long-term asset such as equipment or buildings.

County or Transit Director: Entity or person who completes the application, oversees the program, submits the monthly report. This reference is used interchangeably throughout the guide.

Disabled person: One who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, an individual who has a record of such impairment, or an individual who is regarded as having such impairment. For the purposes of ROAP, certification of eligibility will be the responsibility of the county or their designee.

Large Urbanized Areas: An urbanized area (UZA) with a population of 200,000 or more individuals, as determined by the Bureau of the Census.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU): A formal agreement between two or more parties to establish official partnerships.

Net Project Cost: The part of a project that reasonably cannot be financed from operating revenues (i.e.: farebox recovery)

Operating Expenses: Those costs necessary to operate, maintain, and manage a public transportation system. Operating expenses usually include such costs as driver salaries, fuel, and items having a useful life of less than one year.

Public Transportation: Mass transportation by conveyance that provides regular and continuing general or special transportation to the public, but does not include school bus, charter, or sightseeing transportation.

Recipient: An entity that receives funding directly from the State.

Regional Grant Specialist (RGS): IMD employees responsible for providing technical assistance, grant oversight, planning, administrative and operations assistance to public transportation systems in rural and urban areas.

Rural Area: An area encompassing a population of fewer than 50,000 people that has not been designated in the most recent decennial census as an urbanized area by the Secretary of Commerce.

Seniors: An individual who is 60 years of age or older

Small Urbanized Areas: A UZA with a population of at least 50,000 but less than 200,000, as determined by the Bureau of the Census.

Urbanized Area (UZA): An area encompassing a population of not less than 50,000 people that has been defined and designated in the most recent decennial census as an urbanized area by the Secretary of Commerce.

Program Overview

The Rural Operating Assistance Program (ROAP) is a state-funded public transportation program administered by the North Carolina Department of Transportation Integrated Mobility Division (IMD). County governments or regional public transportation authorities created pursuant to Article 25 or Article 26 of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes (upon written agreement with municipalities or counties served) are the only eligible applicants for ROAP funds. ROAP includes the following funding project categories:

♣ Elderly and Disabled Transportation Assistance Program (EDTAP)

- ✓ Purposes: Provides operating assistance for the transportation of the state's elderly and disabled citizens
- ✓ Legislated: Yes
 - Originally enacted by legislation in the 1989 Session of the North Carolina General Assembly (Article 2B, 136-44.27)

✓ Formula:

- 50% divided equally among all counties;
- 22 ½ % based on the number of senior residents per county as a percentage of the state's total senior population;
- 22 ½ % based on the number of disabled residents per county as a percentage of the state's total disabled population; and
- 5% based on a population density factor that recognizes the higher transportation costs in rural, sparsely populated counties
- Based on the EDTAP formula, these funds may be used to transport individuals living inside of or outside of an urbanized area
- √ Funds up to 100% of the cost of service

Employment and Transportation Assistance Program (EMPL)

- ✓ Purposes:
 - Intended to help DSS clients that:
 - > Transitioned off Work First or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in the previous 12 months; or
 - Workforce Development Program participants; or
 - Intended to help the transportation of disadvantaged public; and/or
 - Intended to help the general public to travel to work, employment training and/or other employment related destinations
- ✓ Legislated: No
- √ Formula:
 - 10% divided equally among all counties;
 - 45% based on the population* of each county as a percentage of the total state population; and
 - 45% based on the number of unemployed individuals in the labor force as a percentage of the number of unemployed individuals in the labor force in the state, in January, prior to application distribution
- ✓ Funds up to 100% of the cost of service

Rural General Public Program (RGP)

- ✓ Purposes: Intended to provide transportation services for individuals from the county who do NOT have a human service agency or organization that will pay for the transportation service.
 - Rural General Public funds must be used to support public transportation services designed to benefit rural areas.
 - RGP trips can be coordinated on vehicles with other human services trips.
- ✓ Legislated: No
- √ Formula:
 - 50% divided equally among all eligible counties; and
 - 50% based upon the rural population of each county as a percentage of the total state rural population. * Excludes the population of the urbanized area as defined by the 2020 Census (See Appendix B for the 2020 Census urban and rural population data)
- ✓ Funds up to 100% of the cost of service

In October 2022 the ROAP guidance was revised to refine the terminology of the Rural General Program (RGP) for more clarity and broaden the scope of the use of funds, the 10% local match was also eliminated. This change was effective beginning in September 2022.

Program Requirements

Connecting Communities Plans (previously referred to as Transportation Service Plans)

Funds distributed by IMD under the ROAP program shall be used in a manner consistent with the county's Coordinated Public Transit – Human Service Transportation Plan, or its equivalent, and any other transportation development plan in place in the county.

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)

Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) provide that no entity shall discriminate against an individual with a disability in connection with the provision of transportation service. The law sets forth specific requirements for vehicle and facility accessibility. The passenger trips and transportation services provided with ROAP funds must be accessible to individuals with disabilities and be provided without discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, creed, sex, or age. Sub-recipients should have procedures for investigating, tracking, and documenting complaints. (See 49 CFR Parts 28 and 37)

Eligible Use of Funds

The FY2026 ROAP funds will be distributed in each of the program categories according to the base allocation table minus unspent funds which will yield the initial disbursement of ROAP funds. Counties who have 5% or less of unspent funds from the previous year are eligible for the 2nd distribution of funds from the unspent balance. This distribution will be calculated with the same ROAP formulas for each program.

Counties have the flexibility to use the funds as needed to meet individual county needs. EDTAP funds must remain in the EDTAP program. Funds transferred into the EDTAP program become EDTAP funds and must remain in the program and follow the rules of the program. Employment and RGP funds can be transferred to any program. ROAP funds are to be used for the eligible expenses listed in Appendix A of this document.

A county which uses any ROAP funds for non-public transportation trips (i.e., funds transferred to emergency services departments, administrative expenses, office supplies, etc.) will not receive further disbursements of ROAP funding until the amounts of ROAP funds misspent has been repaid. ROAP funds spent will be accounted for by program on a monthly reporting basis using the FY26 ROAP SmartSheet Monthly Report form.

Disbursement of Funds

ROAP funds shall be disbursed in the traditional program allocations in each of the ROAP programs. The RGP funding is required to be disbursed to the transit system in each county. Counties have the flexibility to use the ROAP funds as needed to meet their needs and to sub-allocate them to other agencies and programs. The funds take on the criteria of the program for which they are being used on each trip i.e., EMPL funds transferred into the EDTAP program become EDTAP funds and cannot be transferred out of the EDTAP program except to match a 5310 Operating grant.

The FY2026 ROAP funds will be distributed in each of the program categories according to the base allocation table minus unspent funds which will yield the initial disbursement of ROAP funds. Counties who have 5% or less of unspent funds from the previous year are eligible for the 2nd distribution of funds from the unspent balance. This distribution will be calculated with the same ROAP formulas for each program.

- ✓ All North Carolina counties are eligible to receive a formula-based disbursement of ROAP funds.
- ✓ ROAP funds are to be used towards the cost to provide trips (operating expenses)
 when other funding is not available.
- ROAP funds are NOT for administrative or capital expenses. Operating expenses such as fuel and driver salaries are not expenses to be included in the monthly report but should be factored into the cost of the trip using a fully allocated cost model calculation.

NOTE: The total amount of ROAP funds each year will be made up of the amount appropriated to the NCDOT by the legislature for the ROAP program plus any unspent funds from the prior year. The actual amount of ROAP funds allocated from year to year can change. The amount of unspent funds will change from year to year; therefore, Counties are encouraged to use the annual allocated amount for planning purposes and the unspent funds as extra.

All eligible ROAP recipients must submit an annual application, certified statement and application checklist prior to receiving a ROAP disbursement.

- ✓ ROAP funds will be disbursed by IMD to the county or to a regional public transportation authority, created pursuant to Article 25 or Article 26 of Chapter 160A of the North Carolina General Statutes (N.C.G.S), where a written agreement exists with the municipalities or counties served. ROAP funds will NOT be disbursed to any sub-recipients selected by the county or authority. The County Finance Officer or the Executive Director of an eligible authority will be responsible for program administration at the local level. This responsibility shall NOT be delegated to any designee.
- ✓ Counties must know if any part of the county is in an urbanized area.
- ✓ ROAP funds are to be used for the eligible expenses listed in Appendix A of this
 document. Funds are only to be used for eligible activities and not general or
 medical transportation.
- ✓ IMD will closely monitor the usage rate of the ROAP funding via the monthly ROAP report. Counties which routinely do not report trips and expenditures or are late will see monthly balances which are inaccurate and therefore affects end-of-year reconciliation (i.e., unspent funds).
- ✓ A county which uses any ROAP funds for non-public transportation trips(i.e., funds transferred to emergency services departments, administrative expenses, office supplies, etc.) will be required to repay all misspent ROAP funds before additional funds will be disbursed.

The allocations for each ROAP program are listed, by county, in the application package. The methodology for calculating these allocations is described in the Program Overview section. The General Assembly must have an approved and certified state budget prior to ROAP funds being disbursed. The period of performance is July 1 to June 30 regardless of the date(s) the ROAP funds are disbursed to eligible recipients. Allowable expenses incurred from July 1 for each program are eligible for reimbursement. Funds are not to be used for Administrative or Operational expenses.

Interest earned on the funds will be retained by the transportation program and must be used for transportation related expenses according to program guidelines.

It is the responsibility of the eligible ROAP recipients to distribute the funds to the community transit system and/or local agencies and organizations as allowed within the program guidelines. Each county must have and employ a documented methodology for distributing ROAP funds and accounting for the trips provided by sub-recipients.

There is a Community Transportation System operating in most counties, receiving federal and state administrative and capital funds to coordinate public transportation services with human service transportation in the county. These transit systems need operating funds in order to provide affordable transportation for the elderly, disabled and low-income persons in the county that are not receiving transportation benefits from a human service agency or organization. The Community

North Carolina Rural Operating Assistance Program Administration Guide

Transportation System is an eligible sub-recipient of all ROAP funds. The county should take into consideration the need for, and importance of, the public transportation services provided by the Community Transportation System when determining the distribution of ROAP funds.

Sub-allocation and Control of Funds

The county or eligible authority may choose to maintain control of the ROAP funds and reimburse sub-recipients for trip-based services after they have been provided. Or, the county or eligible authority may disburse the ROAP funds to the sub-recipients prior to trips being provided, assuming the county or authority plans to monitor throughout the period of performance whether the trips and transportation services are being provided to eligible individuals and whether all expenditures are allowable.

If the county or eligible authority decides to distribute ROAP funds to any county governmental department, the county should have the ability to account for these funds within the county's or authority's accounting system. If the county or authority passes through any ROAP funds to agencies or organizations, the county or authority should have a written agreement with them that addresses the proper use and accountability for these funds. See Appendix A for a list of eligible activities for each program.

- EDTAP funds may be sub-allocated to any government agency or 501(c)(3) non- profit organization that provides services to individuals with transportation needs. The county should take into consideration the need for, and importance of, the PUBLIC transportation services provided by the Community Transit System when determining the sub-allocation of the EDTAP funds. If the EDTAP funds are sub-allocated to other agencies besides the Community Transportation System, these other agencies are encouraged to coordinate EDTAP-funded transportation trips with the local Community Transportation System.
- EMPL funds may be sub-allocated, by the county or eligible authority, to any government agency or 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides services to individuals with employment related transportation needs. If none of the Employment Transportation Assistance funds are sub-allocated to the Community Transportation System, sub-recipients are encouraged to coordinate EMPL-funded trips with the Community Transportation System.
- RGP funds must be sub-allocated by the county to the Community Transportation System.
 RGP funds must be used to provide transportation services to individuals who are not eligible for the same transportation services funded by any other means.

Financial Management, Monitoring & Evaluation

The basic grant/funds management requirements in N.C.G.S. 159, Local Government Transferring Funds between Counties in a Regional Transportation System Finance, and in the Policies Manual for Local Governments apply to ROAP funds. The cost principles of OMB Circular 2 CFR Part 200 Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards also apply to ROAP funds. Additionally, funds must be expended according to the program guidelines in the grant application for eligible program expenses (see Appendix A for a listing of approved activities).

ROAP services should be routinely monitored by the County Finance Officer or the authority's Executive Director to verify that funds are being spent on allowable expenditures, that the eligibility of service recipients is being properly documented, and that sub-allocated funds will be expended by the end of the period of performance, June 30th. The program should also be routinely evaluated to determine whether they are meeting program objectives.

ROAP funds may be transferred between and/or among member counties of a regional transportation system if the county commissioners agree to the transfer. The monthly report should reflect Regional Transfer of Funds and Regional Receipt of Funds to document any transfer or receipt of ROAP funds between and/or among member counties of the regional transportation system. The regional transportation systems that are eligible for this additional flexibility are:

- Albemarle Regional Health Services (Inter-County Public Transportation Authority)
- Choanoke Public Transportation Authority
- City of Rocky Mount (Tar River Transit)
- Craven County (Craven Area Rural Transit System)
- Hyde-Tyrrell Transportation System (multi-county by ConCPT)
- Kerr Area Transportation Authority
- Randolph County Senior Adults Association, Inc. (Randolph County Regional Coordinated Area Transit System)
- Western Piedmont Regional Transit Authority
- Yadkin Valley Economic Development District, Inc. (Yadkin Valley Public Transportation)

Session Law 2011-207, House Bill 229 does permit regional public transportation authorities created under Article 25 or Article 26 of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes, upon written agreement with the municipalities served by a public transportation authority or counties served by the regional public transportation authority, to apply for and receive any funds to which the member municipality or counties are entitled to receive based on the distribution formula set out in subsection (d) of this section.

Transferring Funds to Match Other Grant Programs

Sub-recipients of ROAP funds are allowed to use their ROAP sub-allocation to leverage more funds by applying for other transportation grants administered by IMD. ROAP funds may ONLY be used as the local match for the following federal or state grant programs:

- Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program
 - ROAP can only be used to match 5310 Operating
- Section 5311 Rural Area Formula Program
 - Where operating or purchase of service is an eligible activity
- Section 5311 Capital Cost of Contracting
- Rural State Operating
- Other funds as pre-approved in the application by the assigned RGS

Transferring Funds between Sub-recipients

ROAP funds may be transferred from one sub-recipient to another within the county without IMD's approval.

Monthly Reporting

Monthly ROAP reports with back-up trip documentation are required no later than 30 days following the end of the month *(i.e., July report due August 30)* via the ROAP SmartSheet survey link which will be provided to primary and secondary contacts. The SmartSheet link is also available on the IMD Connect page:

https://connect.ncdot.gov/business/Transit/Pages/IMD-SmartSheet-Resources.aspx

The monthly report must include eligible trip and expense data associated with the EDTAP, EMPL, and RGP programs. Transfer of funds within programs or to match applicable grants must be recorded on the monthly ROAP report in the month when made. The county must include trip and expense data from agencies who have been sub-allocated ROAP funds in the monthly reports. Failure to submit monthly ROAP reports when due could result in delay or forfeiture of future ROAP disbursements.

County will receive confirmation report after RGS approves monthly report. A County will have 4 days to confirm the approved report. A reminder will be sent via SmartSheet for the County to confirm the accuracy of the report. If the confirmation is not received in 5 business days the RGSs will contact the system requesting the confirmation. Additional automatic SmartSheet reminders will not be sent out. (See Appendix C for information on monthly reporting)

If an error is discovered one (1) report correction per monthly report is allowed. Transit directors must contact the RGS to have the report returned for correction. The corrected report must be resubmitted within 5 business days.

If funds are transferred in a given month, ensure they are properly recorded on the report form for that month, i.e. January funds transferred from EMPL to EDTAP must be recorded on the January report. Transferred funds not recorded will impact the monthly fund balance information on the confirmation report generated monthly and at year-end.

The updated monthly ROAP report for FY26 includes a drop-down box to record fares collected in each program. **Program expenses are to be recorded without fares**, if fares are collected they are recorded separately on the fares line in each program. The fares amount will be calculated for the year but will not be deducted from the program allocations.

When ROAP funds are depleted in each program, the expense will automatically roll into the "Other Funds" column in SmartSheet to account for the expense and if County or other sources of funds have been used. Trips and expenditures should continue to be reported to reflect the overall cost of the ROAP program.

Close monitoring by the County Finance Officer or the authority's Executive Director is required in order to ensure appropriate and maximum utilization of all program funds. It is the responsibility of the County Finance Officer to:

- Record the receipt of ROAP grant funds in a manner that will disclose the source and the purpose/program to which the funds belong, together with evidence of deposit in a financial institution;
- Ensure that ROAP funds and any interest earned on the funds are expended for eligible program expenses, that services are provided to eligible individuals, and that written documentation that supports the expenditures is maintained for at least five years;
- Advise any sub-recipients of the source of the funds, specific program requirements, eligible program expenses and reporting requirements;
- Ensure RGP trips are used to support public transportation services designed to benefit rural areas;
- Include ROAP funds received and expended in its annual independent audit on the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal and State Awards and identify any of the funds passed through to other agencies;
- Complete and submit the monthly ROAP reports.

The June ROAP report submitted by the end of July is considered the annual report. IMD's RGSs will review submitted reports and supporting back-up data for verification. The Grants Administrator will reconcile accumulated expenses and transfers against the amount allocated and disbursed to each system to determine if any funds are unspent.

See **Appendix C** for step-by-step instructions for monthly ROAP reporting and program balances SmartSheet documentation.

Program Auditing and Documentation

IMD is responsible for providing sufficient program monitoring and oversight to ensure that the state funds are used for the intended purpose. IMD will rely on the monthly ROAP reporting information that identifies the number of passenger trips and expenditures by program. NCDOT's External Audit Branch compares information in these reports to the ROAP expenses reported in the county's annual independent audit report.

NCDOT's External Audit Branch may do on-site audits of ROAP expenditures. This requires meeting with the County Finance Officer or the authority's Executive Director to obtain documentation of costs reported to IMD in the monthly ROAP reporting forms. Common areas of deficiency include inadequate documentation of passenger eligibility and trips. The EDTAP program serves specific populations and without documentation of eligibility, i.e., passenger is elderly and/or disabled, the auditor cannot determine if the rider met the program eligibility criteria that would allow the trip to be charged to the program. In addition, documentation of trips reported to IMD must be retained for at least *five years* following submittal of final ROAP reports. The inability to document trips with driver manifests, staff mileage logs, gasoline receipts, or any invoices

associated with costs charged to the program will be considered ineligible expenses. The county or the authority will be invoiced for any undocumented costs.

Services throughout the Period of Performance

The ROAP funds should be managed so that services can be continuously provided during the entire twelve (12) months of the grant cycle. It may be necessary to restrict ROAP services to make the funds last. No additional ROAP funds will be available from the state. The county or eligible authority should budget local funding to avoid discontinuation of any ROAP funded service. The county must notify the assigned RGS, in writing, if any ROAP-funded service is discontinued because all the funds were exhausted prior to the end of the period of performance.

Contracted Services

If any ROAP funds are sub-allocated to agencies or organizations other than the Community Transportation System, these other agencies or organizations are encouraged to coordinate ROAP funded transportation trips with the local, federally funded Community Transportation System in the county. The Community Transportation Systems have insurance, vehicle maintenance, and driver training and safety standards mandated by the FTA.

Sub-recipients are permitted to use ROAP funds to contract with private transportation providers. Sub-recipients who choose to contract services must follow all state and federal procurement guidelines when selecting a contractor. Sub-recipients should inspect the safety record, service policies and vehicle condition of any private provider being considered. Private providers shall be required to provide documentation that a service was provided on the date billed, by whatever conveyance at the specified cost.

Application Process

A Call for Applications and the documents are posted once a year on IMD's website. A notification email is sent to IMD's contacts in the SmartSheet list when the application is posted and available to complete.

An eligible recipient has the option of applying for any amount of funding up to the maximum amount allocated. Each applicant should carefully evaluate past program expenditures and other costs to determine the amount to apply for within each program. Total funds should be managed so that services can be continued for the entire 12 months.

The application documents will be posted on the NCDOT Connect site under the Unified Grants Application heading at https://connect.ncdot.gov/business/Transit/Pages/Unified-Grant-Application.aspx

County Managers, County Finance Officers, the Rural Planning Organizations (RPO) and Transit Directors will be notified by e-mail when the application is available. The application materials are designed to enable IMD staff to better understand the services to be provided and ensure that funds are utilized as intended. Failure to complete any portion of the application may result in

processing delays. The recipient should contact the Regional Grant Specialist assigned to the county if there are questions about the application.

The application documents will be uploaded in the SmartSheet ROAP workspace for FY26. The RGSs will provide each transit director their individual ROAP SmartSheet workspace link. Electronic copies of the application documents for ROAP funds must be submitted to IMD on or before the deadline. A checklist will be provided in the application documents.

Public Outreach and Involvement

The recipient should determine what the transportation needs of agencies and individuals are in the county before completing the application. It is important that eligible local agencies and interested citizens have the opportunity to participate in the sub-allocation decision. A public hearing is not required to apply. This does not prevent the county commissioners or eligible authority boards from inviting the public to request a public hearing, holding a public hearing and/or receiving support for the application during a meeting if it is required by local policy or protocol.

Certifications and Assurances

The County Manager and the County Finance Officer are required to sign a certified statement that describes the roles and responsibilities associated with the application for and acceptance of ROAP funds and guarantees that certain actions will be taken at the county level to properly administer the program. The Certified Statement must be signed, sealed with the county seal and accompany the application in order for ROAP funds to be disbursed. Eligible authorities will submit a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) executed with each municipality in their service area with their application.

Cost of Service

Departments, agencies and/or organizations using ROAP funds to provide services shall determine a billing/reimbursement rate by mile, hour or trip that is based on the fully allocated cost of the service. The fully allocated cost of providing a trip should include both direct costs and shared (indirect) costs.

For the application, the applicant must calculate the average cost of a trip based on the projected number of trips. The average cost of a trip will be the sub-allocation amount divided by the proposed number of trips to be provided. These costs will be compared to the average cost of the trips in other counties to determine whether the cost of the proposed services is reasonable.

Application Review and Follow-up

The RGS will review the documents in the application for accuracy and completeness. The RGS will determine if the recipient is prepared to manage the ROAP funds and whether the services and/or activities are eligible and allowable. The RGS will follow up, as needed, if more detail is required or where there are doubts that the recipient's plans for use of the funds do not provide for improved services for the targeted populations.

Local Match/Local Funding Requirements

A local match is NOT required for EDTAP, EMPL or RGP trips; funding may be used to provide up to one hundred percent (100%) of the fully allocated cost to provide a trip.

Fares and/or local funds collected must be used to provide additional service. The excess funds CANNOT be used to fund administrative and capital needs. IMD encourages Community Transportation Systems to keep fares reasonable to encourage ridership.

Eligible Expenses and Activities

See the Eligible Transportation Expenses Matrix in Appendix A for examples of allowable trip purposes that can be provided under these programs. This matrix must be shared with any agency that receives a sub-allocation of ROAP funds to ensure that funds are expended according to program guidelines. A county which uses any ROAP funds for an ineligible activity (i.e., funds transferred to emergency services departments, administrative expenses, office supplies, etc.) will be required to repay the amount misspent before additional ROAP funds are disbursed. In addition, Community Transportation systems that use ROAP funds to provide trip services must also comply with the regulations of the FTA Section 5311 Program.

Appendix A - Eligible Transportation Expense Matrix

Services must be provided to a person that meets the eligibility criteria.

Trip Based Services - Trips may be provided by car/vanpool, taxi, public transit vehicle, private transit vehicle, agency vehicle. The most cost-effective option should be chosen. Public /Private transportation providers shall be reimbursed based on the fully allocated cost per mile, per hour, or per passenger trip. Volunteers can be reimbursed for mileage only at the IRS/GSA approved rate. See the link at end of Appendix A for more information. If a human service agency uses an agency vehicle to provide the trip, the agency must include the fully allocated cost of a trip in their reimbursement request including fuel, staff time and benefits, depreciation, vehicle insurance and licensing. RGP trips can be coordinated on vehicles with human services trips as space and destination allow.

**Trips not identified below might be approved by IMD with complete supporting documentation. Discuss trip purpose with Regional Grant Specialist before using ROAP funds to pay for the trip.

Trip Purpose	EDTAP	EMPL	RGP	***************************************
Personal care, non- emergency medical appointments, pharmacy pickup, shopping, bill paying, public hearings, committee meetings,	Yes	No	Yes	
classes, banking, etc. Job interviews, job fair attendance, job readiness activities or training, GED classes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Transportation to Workplace (trip must be scheduled by the individual passenger)	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Child(ren) of Working Parent transported to Child Care	No	Yes	Yes	
Group field trips/tours to community special events	Yes	No	*	
Overnight trips to out-of- county destinations	Yes	No	*	

Human Service Agency appointments	Yes	No	Yes
Purchase of service	No	No	No
Human Service Agency purchase of passes, tickets or tokens from the Community Transportation System for the agency's program needs or their client's needs.	No	No	No

^{*}Must be provided under the provisions of the federal Charter regulations which can be viewed at <a href="https://www.transit.dot.gov/regulations-and-guidance/access/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/charter-bus-service/

IRS approved	mileage	rate:
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https://www.irs.gov/tax-professionals/standard-mileage-rates

Recipients will NOT be allowed to use ROAP funds for "other" services including fuel assistance (gas vouchers, gas cards, reimbursement to fuel provider), vehicle repairs or vehicle insurance premiums.

The fully allocated cost to provide a trip, which has traditionally been eligible for the EDTAP, EMPL and RGP programs will continue to be eligible.

Appendix B

2020 Census Data – Urban Population by County

COUNTIES	TOTAL POP.	RURAL POP.	ELDERLY POP.	DISABLED POP.	POP. DENSITY	Unemployed Labor Force
Alamance	171,415	46,385	37,741	12,156	394.72	7,207
Alexander	36,444	32,466	10,097	3,421	138.35	1,460
Alleghany	10,888	10,888	4,104	1,111	46.16	318
Anson	22,055	22,055	6,127	2,334	41.07	1,065
Ashe	26,577	26,577	9,277	2,078	62.06	908
Avery	17,806	17,806	5,356	1,349	71.94	544
Beaufort	44,652	44,652	15,160	4,081	46.35	1,488
Bertie	17,934	17,934	6,059	2,527	24.19	547
Bladen	29,606	29,606	9,896	3,449	33,36	1,253
Brunswick	136,693	81,122	56,570	11,559	152.95	5,225
Buncombe	269,452	60,299	70,388	18,412	408.45	14,116
Burke	87,570	40,293	24,698	10,441	170.31	3,225
Cabarrus	225,804	39,683	39,389	12,982	620.59	9,466
Caldwell	80,652	34,673	22,257	9,278	169.96	3,402
Camden	10,355	10,355	2,440	904	33.37	283
Carteret	67,686	67,686	23,779	6,328	65.14	2,094
Caswell	22,736	22,736	6,665	2,271	53.03	840
Catawba	160,610	56,647	38,231	12,393	385.97	7,066
Chatham	76,285	62,456	23,087	5,147	107.62	2,315
Cherokee	28,774	28,774	11,048	2,445	61.67	1,048
Chowan	13,708	13,708	4,568	1,423	58.67	407
Clay	11,089	11,089	4,806	969	50.24	357
Cleveland	99,519	99,519	24,763	8,197	212.56	4,543
Columbus	50,623	50,623	15,174	5,860	53.04	2,213
Craven	100,720	100,720	25,964	8,525	130.33	3,125
Cumberland	334,728	46,356	56,119	33,297	508.97	14,867
Currituck	28,100	28,100	6,699	2,196	63.19	927
Dare	36,915	36,915	11,322	2,414	30.01	1,734
Davidson	168,930	80,494	41,143	13,455	297.65	6,718
Davie	42,712	36,058	11,709	3,513	160.26	1,614
Duplin	48,715	48,715	14,681	6,160	59.41	1,636
Durham	324,833	17,655	59,508	16,849	1090.62	14,556
EBCI	0	9,370	0	0	0.00	-
Edgecombe	48,900	34,070	14,493	4,886	96.49	2,855

COUNTIES	TOTAL POP.	RURAL POP.	ELDERLY POP.	DISABLED POP.	POP. DENSITY	Unemployed Labor Force
Forsyth	382,590	0	83,574	23,827	927.88	17,221
Franklin	68,573	57,088	16,139	6,400	138.66	2,560
Gaston	227,943	50,635	50,396	19,586	627.13	10,759
Gates	10,478	10,478	3,408	1,427	30.30	358
Graham	8,030	8,030	2,629	923	26,63	333
Granville	60,992	59,976	13,864	4,719	113.44	2,125
Greene	20,451	20,451	5,001	2,477	76.55	621
Guilford	541,299	77,350	112,433	34,901	823.15	28,299
Halifax	48,622	48,622	14,261	5,664	66.58	2,255
Hamett	133,568	125,041	24,252	12,469	222.17	4,723
Haywood	62,089	62,089	20,208	5,829	112.00	2,560
Henderson	116,281	39,821	38,536	8,012	310.00	4,187
Hertford	21,552	21,552	6,653	2,706	59.79	777
Hoke	52,082	21,787	8,061	6,687	133.01	2,104
Hyde	4,589	4,589	1,481	363	3.28	164
Iredell	186,693	100,548	39,653	12,161	312.21	7,753
Jackson	43,109	43,109	11,688	3,610	87.13	1,729
Johnston	215,999	137,218	39,174	18,351	271.52	7,733
Jones	9,172	9,172	2,996	1,347	19.37	278
Lee	63,285	63,285	14,086	6,359	244.21	2,509
Lenoir	55,122	55,122	15,136	8,075	137.37	2,147
Lincoln	86,810	86,810	21,220	7,230	284.83	3,295
Macon	37,014	37,014	12,791	3,067	71.24	1,200
Madison	21,193	21,193	6,447	2,039	46.95	782
Martin	22,031	22,031	6,771	2,368	48.25	719
McDowell	44,578	44,578	12,514	5,390	100.11	1,658
Mecklenburg	1,115,482	11,580	179,405	53,147	2045.52	61,789
Mitchell	14,903	14,903	4,811	1,264	67.19	532
Montgomery	25,751	25,751	7,642	2,771	51.38	1,029
Moore	99,727	49,559	30,711	7,237	141.36	3,450
Nash	94,970	47,913	23,737	8,726	174.97	4,436
New Hanover	225,702	3,826	55,605	15,891	1024.69	10,388
Northampton	17,471	17,471	6,810	1,740	31.73	651
Onslow	204,576	94,173	25,573	18,329	250.72	5,420
Orange	148,696	59,437	29,247	6,751	370.87	5,174

	TOTAL	RURAL	ELDERLY	DISABLED	POP.	Unemployed
COUNTIES	POP.	POP.	POP.	POP.	DENSITY	, ,
Pamlico	12,276	12,276	5,083	1,165	21.89	347
Pasquotank	40,568	40,568	9,504	3,281	139.34	1,411
Pender	60,203	58,776	15,426	6,355	68.26	2,139
Perquimans	13,005	13,005	5,106	934	39.54	371
Person	39,097	39,097	10,976	4,728	96.67	1,562
Pitt	170,243	50,552	34,030	15,585	259.75	7,550
Polk	19,328	19,328	8,132	1,815	81.09	635
Randolph	144,171	124,553	34,406	15,375	182.48	5,564
Richmond	42,946	42,946	11,127	4,491	89.47	1,906
Robeson	116,530	116,530	28,817	12,313	122,68	5,808
Rockingham	91,096	91,096	25,520	8,476	159.02	3,897
Rowan	146,875	62,530	33,936	13,360	280.39	6,192
Rutherford	64,444	64,444	19,428	7,578	113.63	2,758
Sampson	59,036	59,036	15,311	5,704	62.31	2,061
Scotland	34,174	34,174	8,638	3,023	106.60	1,734
Stanly	62,504	62,504	15,919	5,412	154.41	2,242
Stokes	44,520	35,882	13,299	4,591	97.66	1,603
Surry	71,359	71,359	19,912	8,343	132.70	2,582
Swain	14,117	14,117	3,760	1,450	26.14	625
Transylvania	32,986	32,986	13,117	2,186	86.75	998
Tyrrell	3,245	3,245	1,173	280	5.39	118
Union	238,267	66,326	41,224	12,681	372.60	8,780
Vance	42,578	42,578	11,212	5,113	158.45	2,154
Wake	1,129,410	76,358	183,830	55,917	1317.71	47,246
Warren	18,642	18,642	6,868	1,862	41.95	805
Washington	11,003	11,003	3,931	1,279	26.50	392
Watauga	54,086	54,086	12,355	3,625	172.62	2,030
Wayne	117,333	63,006	28,940	10,898	210.44	3,965
Wilkes	65,969	65,969	19,618	6,987	87.11	2,207
Wilson	78,784	78,220	20,610	6,779	211.20	3,741
Yadkin	37,214	37,214	10,129	3,144	110.19	1,377
Yancey	18,470	18,470	6,017	1,688	58.97	628

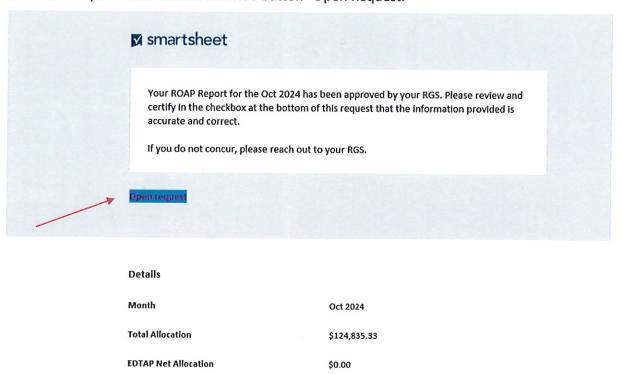
Appendix C

Montly ROAP Report and Program Balances Smartsheet

An external-facing dashboard has been created to provide more transparency and information about the ROAP balances for each transit system. This new dashboard is being integrated into the new reporting process and will assist the Transit Agencies and IMD in ensuring correct financial information is being captured.

ROAP Approval Process

The monthly ROAP report will be reviewed and approved by the Regional Grant Specialist (RGS). This approval will trigger Smartsheet to send an automated email to the Transit Agency to confirm the accuracy of the report. The screenshot below shows what the email will look like. The Transit System will click on the blue button "Open Request."



When the Open Request button is clicked, a Smartsheet form will appear. The form is shown below.

smartsheet

ROAP Transit System Approval Request

Your ROAP Report for the Nov 2024 has been approved by your RGS. Please review and certify in the checkbox at the bottom of this request that the information provided is accurate and correct.

If you do not concur, please reach out to your RGS.

Month

Nov 2024

Total Allocation

EDTAP Net Allocation

\$0.00

EDTAP Transfers

\$0.00

EDTAP Expended

\$0.00

EDTAP Remaining Balance

EDTAP County Funds Used

\$0.00

\$0.00

EMPL Net Allocation

\$23,103.18

EMPL Expended

\$0.00

EMPL Transfers

\$0.00

EMPL Remaining Balance

\$23,103.18

EMPL County Funds Used

\$0.00

RGP Net Allocation

\$99,030.24

RGP Expended

\$0.00

RGP Transfers

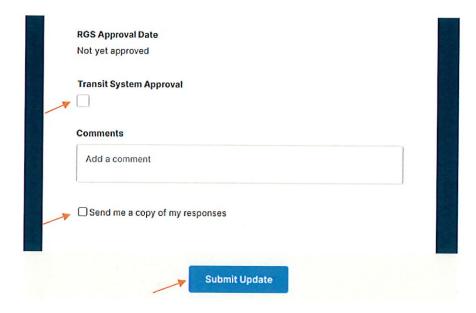
\$0.00

RGP Remaining Balance

\$99,030.24

RGP County Funds Used

\$0.00



The Transit System will need to review the information provided for accuracy. If the information is correct, click on the checkbox "Transit System Approval" and click on "Submit Update". To receive a copy of your response, click on "Send me a copy of my responses" and enter your email address.

If the information is not accurate and there is a discrepancy, then the Transit Agency will need to reach out to their RGS to work on correcting the issue.

If the Transit System does not respond and submit an update within 4 days of receiving the email, then a reminder email will be sent to the Agency to complete the form. See the screenshot below.

From: Smartsheet Automation <automation@app.smartsheet.com>

Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2024 9:49 AM

To: Rachel Fogleman < Rachel. Fogleman@mottmac.com>

Subject: ROAP Transit System Approval Request

Transit System Approval Request Reminder

This is a friendly reminder to respond to the update ROAP request for the month of {{Month}}. Please respond to the original Smartsheet update request email. If you have any questions, please reach out to your RGS.

ROAP Monthly Reporting/Program Balance Sheets

The Transit System will now have access to see their Monthly ROAP report data and balances at any time. All aspects of ROAP reporting will be shown in this new sheet to ensure that the Transit System and IMD have the same information.

Each Transit System will be shared a link to their Smartsheet Workspace, which belongs only to them and can only be seen by that System. Below are screenshots of the new Smartsheet Tool.

Month	Total Allocation	EDTAP →	EDTAP Net Allocation	EDTAP Transfers	EDTAP Interagency Transfers	EDTAP Expended	EDTAP Remaining Balance	EDTAP County Funds Used
₾	60	₾	6	₾	6	a o	6	60
Jul 2024	\$231,935.49		\$96,978.00	\$0.00		\$60,254.35	\$36,723.65	\$0.00
Aug 2024	\$165,622.74		\$36,723.65	\$0.00		\$63,814.35	\$0.00	\$27,090.70
Sept 2024	\$126,439.69		\$0.00	\$0.00	11	\$65,530.40	\$0.00	\$65,530.40
Oct 2024	\$124,835.33		\$0.00	\$0.00	17	\$62,938.67	\$0.00	\$62,938.67
Nov 2024			\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Dec 2024			\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Jan 2025			\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Feb 2025			\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mar 2025			\$0.00	\$0.00	1.8	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Apr 2025			\$0.00	\$0.00	110	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
May 2025			\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Jun 2025			\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Month	EMPL →	EMPL Net Allocation	EMPL Expended	EMPL Transfers	EMPL Remaining Balance	EMPL County Funds Used
₼	6	۵	6	6	6	a 0
Jul 2024		\$34,354.00	\$5,868. 5 4<	\$0.00	\$28,485.46	\$0.00
Aug 2024		\$28,485.46	\$2,433.64	\$0.00	\$26,051.82	\$0.00
Sept 2024		\$26,051.82	\$1,439.62	\$0.00	\$24,612.20	\$0.00
Oct 2024		\$24,612.20	\$1,509.02	\$0.00	\$23,103.18	\$0.00
Nov 2024		\$23,103.18	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$23,103.18	\$0.00
Dec 2024		\$23,103.18	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$23,103.18	\$0.00
Jan 2025		\$23,103.18	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$23,103.18	\$0.00
Feb 2025		\$23,103.18	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$23,103.18	\$0.00
Mar 2025		\$23,103.18	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$23,103.18	\$0.00
Apr 2025		\$23,103.18	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$23,103.18	\$0.00
May 2025		\$23,103.18	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$23,103.18	\$0.00
Jun 2025		\$23,103.18	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$23,103.18	\$0.00

Month	RGP →	RGP Net Allocation	RGP Expended	RGP Transfers	RGP Interagency Transfers	RGP Remaining Balance	RGP County Funds Used
6	6	6	۵	6	0	6	<u>a</u> o
Jul 2024		\$100,603.49	\$189.86	\$0.00		\$100,413.63	\$0.00
Aug 2024		\$100,413.63	\$25.76	\$0.00		\$100,387.87	\$0.00
Sept 2024		\$100,387.87	\$164.74	\$0.00		\$100,223.13	\$0.00
Oct 2024		\$100,223.13	\$1,192.89	\$0.00		\$99,030.24	\$0.00
Nov 2024		\$99,030.24	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$99,030.24	\$0.00
Dec 2024		\$99,030.24	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$99,030.24	\$0.00
Jan 2025		\$99,030.24	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$99,030.24	\$0.00
Feb 2025		\$99,030.24	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$99,030.24	\$0.00
Mar 2025		\$99,030.24	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$99,030.24	\$0.00
Apr 2025		\$99,030.24	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$99,030.24	\$0.00
May 2025		\$99,030.24	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$99,030.24	\$0.00
Jun 2025		\$99,030.24	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$99,030.24	\$0.00

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Month 合	RGS Approval Date		Transit System Approval
Jul 2024	09/18/24	4	
Aug 2024	10/08/24	4	
Sept 2024	11/04/24	4	
Oct 2024	11/21/24	4	~
Nov 2024	Not yet approved	4	
Dec 2024	Not yet approved	4	
Jan 2025	Not yet approved	4	
Feb 2025	Not yet approved	4	
Mar 2025	Not yet approved	4	
Apr 2025	Not yet approved	1	
May 2025	Not yet approved	4	
Jun 2025	Not yet approved	4	

Once the transit systems acknowledge the accuracy of the ROAP monthly report from the form sent via email, Smartsheet will automatically check the box noting their approval.

If the transit system does not approve the information, the RGS will reach out to the system for resolution.

CERTIFIED STATEMENT

FY2026

RURAL OPERATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

County of Ashe

WHEREAS, the state-funded, formula-based Rural Operating Assistance Program (ROAP) administered by the North Carolina Department of Transportation, Integrated Mobility Division provides funding for the operating cost of passenger trips for counties within the state;

WHEREAS, the county uses the most recent transportation plans (i.e., CCP, CTIP, LCP) available and other public involvement strategies to learn about the transportation needs of agencies and individuals in the county before determining the sub-allocation of these ROAP funds;

WHEREAS, the county government or regional public transportation authorities created pursuant to Article 25 or Article 26 of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes (upon written agreement with the municipalities or counties served) are the only eligible recipients of Rural Operating Assistance Program funds which are allocated to the counties based on a formula as described in the Program Guidelines included in the ROAP State Management Plan. NCDOT will disburse the ROAP funds only to counties and eligible transportation authorities and not to any sub-recipients selected by the county;

WHEREAS, the county finance officer will be considered the county official accountable for the administration of the Rural Operating Assistance Program in the county, unless otherwise designated by the Board of County Commissioners;

WHEREAS, the passenger trips provided with ROAP funds must be accessible to individuals with disabilities and be provided without discrimination on the basis of national origin, creed, age, race, or gender (FTA C 4702.1B, FTA C 4704.1A, Americans with Disabilities Act 1990); and

WHEREAS, the period of performance for these funds will be July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 regardless of the date on which ROAP funds are disbursed to the county.

NOW, THEREFORE, by signing below, the duly authorized representatives of the County of <u>Ashe</u> North Carolina certify that the following statements are true and accurate:

- The county employed a documented methodology for sub-allocating ROAP funds that involved the participation of
 eligible agencies and citizens. Outreach efforts to include the participation of the elderly and individuals with
 disabilities, persons with limited English proficiency, minorities and low-income persons in the county's suballocation decision have been documented.
- The county will advise any sub-recipients about the source of the ROAP funds, specific program requirements and restrictions, eligible program expenses and reporting requirements. The county will be responsible for invoicing any sub-recipients for unexpended ROAP funds as needed.
- The county will monitor ROAP funded services routinely to verify that ROAP funds are being spent on allowable activities and that the eligibility of service recipients is being properly documented. The county will maintain records of trips for at least five years that prove that an eligible citizen was provided an eligible transportation service on the billed date, by whatever conveyance at the specified cost.
- The county will be responsible for monitoring the safety, quality, and cost of ROAP funded services and assures that
 any procurements by subrecipients for contracted services will follow state and federal guidelines.
- The county will conduct regular evaluations of ROAP funded passenger trips provided throughout the period of performance.
- The county will only use the ROAP funds to provide trips when other funding sources are not available for the same purpose or the other funding sources for the same purpose have been completely exhausted.

- The county will notify the Regional Grant Specialist assigned to the county if any ROAP funded services are discontinued before the end of the period of performance due to the lack of funding. No additional ROAP funds will be available.
- The county will provide an accounting of trips and expenditures in monthly reports to NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division or its designee. Back-up documentation is required to support the monthly reports, failure to provide documentation will affect future disbursements. The June report will be considered the annual report.
- Any interest earned on the ROAP funds will be expended for eligible program uses as specified in the ROAP application. The County will include ROAP funds received and expended in its annual independent audit on the schedule of federal and state financial assistance. Funds passed through to other agencies will be identified as such.
- The county is applying for the following amount of FY2026 Rural Operating Assistance Program funds: *The total amount of allocated funds are identified in the Total Disbursement (columns L-O) on the allocation table. The amount of requested funds cannot exceed the amount of allocated (disbursed) funds listed in the application table. Funds are allowed to be transferred to ROAP programs as needed, according to transfer criteria. Transfers must be recorded in the monthly ROAP report in the month transferred.

State-Funded Rural Operating Assistance Program	Allocated*(Disbursed)	Requested
Elderly and Disabled Transportation Assistance Program (EDTAP)	\$47,139	\$47,139
Employment Transportation Assistance Program (EMPL)	<u>\$6,459</u>	\$6,459
Rural General Public Program (RGP)	<u>\$62,064</u>	<u>\$62,064</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$115,662</u>	<u>\$115,662</u>

VITNESS my hand and county seal, this	day of, <u>20</u> .
Signature of County Manager/Administrator	Signature of County Finance Officer
Printed Name of County Manager/Administrator	Printed Name of County Finance Officer
State of North Carolina County of	
	County Seal Here

ıt.	Total	S 239 142	6	69	\$ 136,127	9	A 6	\$ 174,340	9 6	9 65	69	s	s	69	€9	69 6	A 6	A 6	A 6		69	s	s		69	\$ 142,400	A 6		5	S	5	69	y 4	\$ 293,703	69	€9	€9	s∌ 6	\$ 373,362	69	69	S	69	69	\$ 74,179	A 60	S		"			\$ 160,715
Total Disbursement	RGP	\$ 87.351		П	\$ 64,146	۱		85,696	5 55 142			\$ 10,829	П				5 64,795	٥ ٥	2 70,5673						\$ 80,815	59,910	\$ 119.878	S	S		\$ 36,418		\$ 4,100		S	\$ 50,771		5 62,616		١				\$ 63,890	\$ 39,370	\$ 139,002			\$ 103,466	\$ 95,681		\$ 78,411
Total Dis	EMPL	\$ 36.200	es	€9	€9 €	5 b,459	200	A 4	•	-	69	s	\vdash	69	69	-	0	_	9 6			5	\$ 12,531	S		7,288			\$ 10,995	\$ 56,806	49	en e	_				\$ 13,357	5,812		\$ 26,641	П				\$ 2,875	\$ 38,994			\$ 14,481	\$ 12,824	\$ 18,656	\$ 8,812
	EDTAP	\$ 115.591				6 647.139					16	\$ 93,423	•			5 55,854		90000					\$ 82,825			\$ 65,202	S 127 747		\$ 83,073		1	\$ 79,712	\$ 63.505		\$ 49,693		\$ 78,235	\$ 200.791		\$ 108,318	П				\$ 31,934		-	П	\$ 82,921	П	\$ 92,251	5 73,492
<u>.</u>	Total	22,602			12,685	12 044	16.432	12,176			31,513	•			10,797	12 704	12,134	19 735	14.143	11,496	11,278	23,870	17,150	23,899	28,635	13,327	26.003	15,118	16,768	26,554		15,717	can'ne	26,288		10,618	17,809	12,233	16.814	26,322	19,151		12,666	13,453	27 851	15,753	31,196		18,226	17,555	21,814	15,248
Second Disbursement	RGP Nim	8,108.0 \$	٠	\rightarrow	6,003 \$	_	7 958 \$	_	-	69	9,311 \$	٠.	69	-	4,991	6 - 3 6 060 &	-	9 497	6,584 \$	-	5,054 \$	12,702 \$		12,806 \$	-	6,025,0	11,057 \$		8,309 \$		-	7,042 \$	-	8,475 \$	\rightarrow	_	9,283 \$	t + +	8,301 \$	14,910 \$		_	5,959 \$	-	12 791 \$	_	15,964 \$		\$ 695'6		7 206 6	-
cond Disb	EMPL	3,162 \$			979	484 5	-	486 \$	-		5,409 \$	· ·		\rightarrow	36/ \$	786	-	1.349 \$	+		388 \$	2,001 \$	\rightarrow	1,724 \$	65127 \$	_	-	-	\vdash	5,978 \$	-	7 017	+	4,371 \$	-	\rightarrow	\$ 271,T	+	_	2,331 \$		\rightarrow	2 564 \$	6 /60'1	3 405 S		\rightarrow				783 \$	/83
Sec	EDTAP	\$ 11,332 \$			qcn'q	5.925	7.567	-			16,793				0,438	6 146 5		8.889	-	5,794	5,836	9,167	7,569	9,369	6 151 6	2 .	11,904	6,987	7,486	14,954 S		18 982 \$	700'0	13,442		5,471	7 867		7,416 \$		8,409		6 276 6		11.655 \$	6,985				7,560	7 169 \$	
	Total Irsement				115 662	115.164		115,227	119,992	39,023 \$			116,026	114,059		123.908		187,269	134,246	110,472 \$	106,931	235,213		229,347	129 073	E.	256,436 \$	146,217 \$		242,962		236,617		\$ 267,415		102,013	120 362						140 556	74.179			322,568			179,212	145,467	
sement	RGP Disbi	79,243 \$	\rightarrow	42,602 \$	_	54,458 \$	-				_	_	-	47,007	-	-	-	93,178 \$	63,969	\$ 506.05	48,633 \$	_	_	120,519 \$	63.385 5		108,821 \$	70,286 \$	\rightarrow	_	30,418 \$		-	Н	-	45,981 \$	+	+	81,181 \$	147,449 \$	92,860 \$	_	57 010 \$	-	-	\vdash	\rightarrow	\rightarrow	-	-	71.115 S	+
First Disburse	EMPL	33,038 \$	\rightarrow	3,129 \$	6.459 \$	_	-		$\overline{}$	\rightarrow	-	16,937 \$	_	3 653 6	_	-	12,212 \$	-		\rightarrow	\rightarrow	_	11,424 \$	_	6.637 \$	_	-	9,429 \$	-	50,828 \$	12 631 @		13,795 \$		_	3,548 \$	5.290 \$		11,330 \$	_	13,205 \$	5 722 \$	-		35,589 \$	\vdash	38,214 \$		13,205 \$	11,692 \$	8,029 \$	
Η̈́	EDTAP	104,259 \$	17,773 \$	54,125 \$	47,139 \$	55,819 \$	70,833 \$	55,754 \$	64,850 \$	2,683 \$	152,660 \$	93,423 \$	113,12/ \$	52 277 5	55.854 \$	59,211 \$	85,866 \$	80,116 \$	63,320 \$	55,345 \$	54,421 \$		75,256 \$					66,502 \$		139,505 \$		163,754 \$	63,505 \$	138,750 \$	49,693 \$	70 887 \$			74,001 \$			_	71.322 \$	-	111,379 \$	-	_		-	_	66,323 \$	+
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	COUNTIES	Alamance	Alexander	Anson	Ashe	Avery	Beaufort	Bertie	Bladen	Brunswick	Burko	Burke	Caldwell	Camden	Carteret	Caswell	Catawba	Chatham	Cherokee	Chowan	Clay	Celumbus	Columbus	Cumberland	Currituck	Dare	Davidson	Davie	Duplin	FBCI	Edgecombe	Forsyth	Franklin	Gaston	Gates	Granville	Greene	Guilford	Halifax	Harnett	Haywood	Heriford	Hoke	Hyde	Iredell	Jackson	Johnston	Jones	Lee	Lenoir	Macon	Madison