



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

J. ERIC BOYETTE
SECRETARY

February 10, 2021

To Whom it May Concern,

The Secretary forwarded your letter to me. First, thank you for reaching out. We share your concern for people in Asheville who were seeking shelter under the 1-240 bridge on a cold night during the pandemic and want you to know that I have taken steps to ensure that in the future, NCDOT do not address similar situations in the same manner.

The Secretary shared the Centers for Disease Control and Prevent (CDC) Interim Guidance on Unsheltered Homelessness and Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) for Homeless Service Providers and Local Officials with all NCDOT leadership and directed us to implement these practices. As the Chief Engineer, I have directed all my Division Engineers not to take action related to people experiencing homelessness located in the right of way or under roadways unless and until It has been determined there is an immediate safety risk to the public. If there is an immediate safety risk, NCDOT will work with local officials and partner organizations to collaboratively develop a plan that follows CDC guidelines and protects everyone involved.

In addition, NCDOT is collaborating with several municipalities to help our citizens experiencing homelessness. We are reaching out to other state DOTs to learn best safety practices.

Moving forward, local staff will work more closely with our local partners who serve those that are experiencing homelessness. We look forward to building stronger partnerships that will help us to serve all North Carolinians. If you have additional questions or concerns, you can contact Mark Gibbs, Division Engineer, at (828) 250-3000 or mgibbs@ncdot.gov.

Sincerely,

Ronald L. Keeter, Jr.
Chief Engineer

Cc: Secretary Eric Boyette
Mark Gibbs, PE