



## N.C. Department of Transportation Ferry Division

Many residents depend on the state for passenger and vehicle transportation to access schools, jobs, county services and tourist attractions. Ferries also carry goods that are essential to water-locked communities and serve in critical community service and public safety roles.



### Currituck - Knotts Island

*Crosses Currituck Sound to connect Knotts Island to mainland Currituck County. Established in 1962 to shorten travel time for Knotts Island students to get to and from their schools in Currituck.*

### Bayview - Aurora

*Connects N.C. 306 across the Pamlico River to provide workers at mining companies in Aurora a direct connection to their homes on the north side of the river.*

### Swan Quarter - Ocracoke

*Crosses Pamlico Sound between Swan Quarter and Ocracoke to connect residents of Ocracoke Island with their county government services on the mainland. Also a gateway for Triad/Triangle residents to reach Ocracoke Island.*

### Hatteras - Ocracoke

*Considered a part of N.C. Highway 12, this route connects Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands on the Outer Banks.*

### Cedar Island - Ocracoke

*Links N.C. Highway 12 from the Outer Banks to the Carteret County mainland across Pamlico Sound. Provides a direct connection to the Outer Banks for visitors coming from the south and west.*

### Cherry Branch - Minnesott Beach

*Connects workers at Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station to their homes in Pamlico County. Also gives students access to several summer camps on the north side of the river.*

### Southport - Fort Fisher

*Used by both commuters and visitors, this route crosses the Cape Fear River between the beaches of New Hanover County and the Brunswick County town of Southport.*

## Second largest

state-run ferry system in the United States, following Washington state.

## 21 ferries and seven regular routes

of everyday service across the Currituck and Pamlico sounds as well as the Cape Fear, Neuse, and Pamlico rivers.

## Largest maintenance shipyard on the East Coast

between Norfolk, Va. and Charleston, S.C.



**794,000**

vehicles transported by ferry in 2017, including 253,000 vehicles from out-of-state.

Source: North Carolina Ferry Division, 2017



## Key Challenges

- Declining ridership
- Extreme weather events
- Changes in technology
- Lack of sustainable funding sources

Nearly 2 million passengers cross the rivers and sounds of eastern North Carolina each year, making the state’s ferry system a way of life for those who live and work in the region and an economic necessity for businesses and the tourism industry.

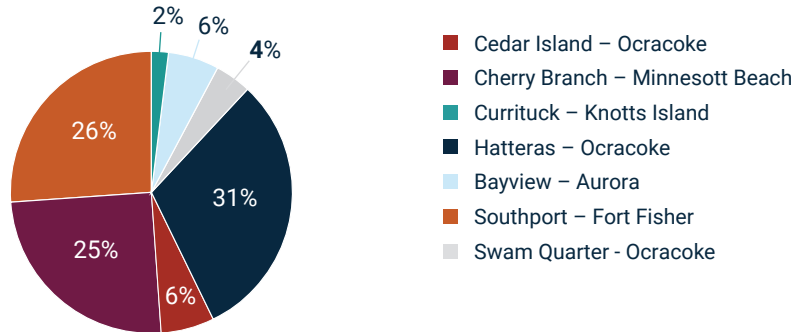
The ferry system also plays a crucial role during coastal emergencies, moving thousands of people out of harm’s way in advance of hurricanes. An emergency route also runs between Stumpy Point and Rodanthe, when N.C. 12 is damaged due to storms and other issues.

### Fare Cost for Tolled Ferry Routes

Type	Swan Quarter-Ocracoke Cedar Island-Ocracoke	Southport-Fort Fisher
	One-Way Fare	
Pedestrian	\$1	\$1
Bicycle Rider	\$3	\$2
Motorcycle	\$10	\$3
Scooter, Golf Cart or ATV	\$10	\$3
3-Wheel Motorcycle	\$10	\$3
Motorcycle with Trailer or Side Car	\$15	\$7
Vehicle less than 20 feet	\$15	\$7
Vehicle 20 to 40 feet	\$30	\$14
Vehicle 40 to 65 feet	\$45	\$28

Source: North Carolina Ferry Division, 2019

### Percentage of Ridership by Route



Source: North Carolina Ferry Division, fiscal year 2017

In 2017, North Carolina ferries transported over

# 1.8 M passengers

## New Direct Service

In the **near future** the N.C. Ferry System expects to add direct passenger-only service from Hatteras Island to Ocracoke Island’s Silver Lake Harbor, giving tourists an opportunity to explore the island without having to worry about **traffic of parking**.



Illustration courtesy of Elliott Bay Design Group, Seattle

Learn more at  
**[ncdot.gov/  
ncmoves](http://ncdot.gov/ncmoves)**

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2050  
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