

Hurricane Helene recovery could delay NCDOT projects in southeastern NC

By [Arianna Bertolotti](#) | Published: June 5, 2025



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WILMINGTON, N.C. (WECT) - State road and bridge projects could be delayed for years due to Helene-related projects.

This message comes from a new report on North Carolina's funding and transportation needs.

It's unclear if the state allocating funding to fix bridges and roads in Western North Carolina will impact funding for replacing the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge.

A representative with the local North Carolina Department of Transportation office says when it comes to replacing the bridge, there are a lot of unknowns and it is too early to decide anything.

But, it is expected to be brought up at the NCDOT's next board meeting in July.

A new report from TRIP, a transportation research group, notes the state will need to spend around \$1 billion on roads and bridges damaged by Helene.

To put that in perspective, this is about three times as much as the state spends on bridges in one year alone.

That could cut funding for road construction and bridge projects across the state, like the CFMB.

TRIP's research director commended the state on its transportation improvements in western North Carolina following Helene but recognizes that work is going to have a ripple effect.

"The North Carolina Department of Transportation has really done a heroic job of addressing this devastating damage from Hurricane Helene," said Rocky Moretti, TRIP's research director. "But moving forward, they also have significant transportation challenges across the state."