



COVID-19 Update 8-10-2020

President Trump Issues Memorandum concerning Payroll Tax Deferrals

Over the weekend, the President signed a [presidential memorandum](#) directing the Treasury Secretary to defer the withholding, deposit and payment of payroll tax for employees earning less than \$100,000 (although the order specifically states individuals earning less than \$4000 on a bi-weekly basis) from September 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

The President further stated that he would work to have that payroll tax obligation forgiven after the election. However, while he has the authority to defer collection of the tax, he would have to work with Congress to have the tax forgiven.

This situation creates a lot of risk for employers. ACEC recommends that you confer with your tax advisors regarding how to proceed. This morning I had a regular conference call with tax lobbyists from other trade associations, and there was agreement that the risks for employers of not withholding these payroll taxes from employee paychecks are significant if the promised tax forgiveness does not materialize.

With respect to the negotiations over the next coronavirus response package, the group also thinks that if an agreement is not reached this week, talks are likely to carry over into September. The Democratic convention takes place next week and the Republican convention the week after. Even though most Members of Congress are not traveling to these events this year, the focus will still be there.

Great American Outdoors Act Signed Into Law

By [N.C. Political News](#) | August 5, 2020

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On Tuesday August 5th President Donald Trump signed into law bipartisan legislation co-sponsored by Senator Thom Tillis (R-NC) that will preserve the nation's public parks and other lands by fully funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and addressing the nearly \$12 billion deferred maintenance backlog on federal lands, including North Carolina's national parks which have a more than \$459 million deferred maintenance backlog.

The Great American Outdoors Act will provide \$9.5 billion in dedicated funding to clearing this backlog, allowing our national treasures like the Great Smoky Mountains and Cape Hatteras National Seashore to continue to be enjoyed by future generations. The bill was supported by more than 850 conservation organizations.

"North Carolina is home to some of the most beautiful national parks including the Great Smoky Mountains and the Blue Ridge Parkway," said Senator Tillis. "I am proud to have co-sponsored this bipartisan legislation and get it signed into law so we can preserve our parks and allow our kids and grandkids to enjoy them in their best form."

North Carolina's NPS Deferred Maintenance Backlog, as of 9/18:

Blue Ridge Parkway (BLRI)	\$295,374,451
Cape Hatteras National Seashore (CAHA)	\$49,834,106
Cape Lookout National Seashore (CALO)	\$27,718,515

Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site (CARL)	\$2,377,929
Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GRSM)	\$73,122,970*
Guilford Courthouse National Military Park (GUCO)	\$7,169,566
Moore's Creek National Battlefield (MOCR)	\$3,450,505
Total	\$459,048,042

Governor Cooper Announces NC Department of Information Technology Acting Secretary

By [N.C. Political News](#) | August 5, 2020

RALEIGH, N.C. — Governor Roy Cooper announced Monday that Thomas Parrish IV will be named Acting Secretary of the N.C. Department of Information Technology (NC DIT). Parrish will fill the role held by Tracy Doaks, who Cooper announced would depart at the end of July to lead a non-profit dedicated to broadband expansion in rural areas.

“The state of North Carolina relies on our IT resources now more than ever. Thomas Parrish’s experience as an IT leader and educator prepares him to lead NC DIT as the agency supports our state workforce in all 100 counties, both in the office and remote. His work as Chief Deputy has earned the trust of state government, and he will do work hard to protect our state from cyber threats.”

Parrish is an Information Technology (IT) leader with more than 27 years of proven success in varying levels of state and local government. His previous work has required strategic planning, resource management, efficiency and customer service skills while honing his collaboration and project management skills.

Currently, he is serving at NC DIT as Deputy Chief Information Officer, leading the Enterprise Infrastructure Services (EIS) Division, which provides mission critical infrastructure services. Parrish also serves on the faculty at Edgecombe Community College teaching Information Technology courses including IT management, application development, network operating systems and aerial remote sensing.

Previously, he served as Deputy State Chief Information Officer focusing on several Council of State agencies’ budget and management of IT resources, Chief Information Officer at the Department of Cultural Resources (DCR) and leadership roles at several community colleges advancing IT learning.

Parrish earned his undergraduate and master’s degrees from N.C. Central University, in addition to holding a PMP and Lean Six Sigma certifications and an FAA Certified Drone Pilot license.

New NCDOT CFO Appointed

FROM: J. Eric Boyette
NCDOT Secretary

I am taking this opportunity to communicate with you regarding several organizational realignments I have made recently and the announcement of our new Chief Financial Officer. First, I have decided to realign Torre Jessup, DMV Commissioner to report directly to me and he now serves as a member of my executive leadership team. As commissioner, Torre oversees the daily operations of the N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles, including vehicle registrations, driver licenses, vehicle safety and emissions inspections as well as activities to halt vehicle theft and identity fraud. Commissioner Jessup and I have already started working shoulder-to-shoulder together on several strategic initiatives within DMV. He is a top-notch leader and we share the same passion of making DMV a great place to work for all employees.

Secondly, I am pleased to announce that Stephanie King will be joining my executive leadership team in the role of Chief Financial Officer. Her first day of employment will be Monday, August 10th, 2020. Stephanie is not new to the DOT Family. She has a master's degree in Business/Finance with over 30 years of directly related work experience in progressive accounting and finance. Most of those years of experience have been here at DOT. She comes with a comprehensive knowledge of the complex funding structures unique to our Department. Chief Financial Officer King will now report directly to me also. Previously, the position reported to the Chief Operating Officer.

James A. Smith, Jr., PE, Executive Director
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ACEC/NC is premier organization in North Carolina that represents the business interests of the engineering industry in our state. ACEC/NC's mission is to promote the business interest of engineer companies by providing legislative advocacy and business services.