



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

STATEWIDE FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT PROCEDURES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2008

OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

BETH A. WOOD, CPA

STATE AUDITOR

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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State Auditor

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AUDITOR'S TRANSMITTAL

The Honorable Beverly E. Perdue, Governor
Members of the North Carolina General Assembly
Mr. Eugene A. Conti, Jr., Secretary
Department of Transportation

We have completed certain audit procedures at the Department of Transportation related to the State of North Carolina reporting entity as presented in the *Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)* and *Single Audit Report* for the year ended June 30, 2008. Our audit was performed by authority of Article 5A of Chapter 147 of the *North Carolina General Statutes*.

In the *CAFR*, the State Auditor expresses an opinion on the State's financial statements. In the *Single Audit Report*, the State Auditor presents the results of tests of internal control and compliance with laws, regulations, contracts and grants applicable to the State's financial statements. Our audit procedures were conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Our audit objective was to render an opinion on the State of North Carolina's financial statements and not the Department's financial statements. However, the report included herein is in relation to our audit scope at the Department and not to the State of North Carolina as a whole.

The audit finding referenced in the report is also evaluated to determine its impact on the State's internal control and the State's compliance with rules, regulations, contracts and grants. If determined necessary in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, this finding is reported in the State's *Single Audit Report*.

North Carolina General Statutes require the State Auditor to make audit reports available to the public. Copies of audit reports issued by the Office of the State Auditor may be obtained through one of the options listed in the back of this report.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beth A. Wood".

Beth A. Wood, CPA
State Auditor



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**REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING
AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN
AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH
GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

Mr. Eugene A. Conti, Jr., Secretary
and Management of Department of Transportation

As part of our audit of the State of North Carolina's financial statements, we have audited selected elements of the Department of Transportation's financial statements, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2008. Our report on the State of North Carolina's financial statements is included in the State's *Comprehensive Annual Financial Report*. Our financial statement audit scope at the Department of Transportation included the following:

- Special Revenue - Highway Fund
- Special Revenue - Highway Trust Fund
- Capital Assets Used In Governmental Activities

The audit results described below are in relation to our audit scope at the Department and not to the State of North Carolina as a whole.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Department's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the State's financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Department's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Department's internal control over financial reporting.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. However, as discussed below, we identified a deficiency in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be a significant deficiency.

**REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING
AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN
AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH
GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS (CONCLUDED)**

A control deficiency exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect misstatements on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects the entity's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, or report financial data reliably in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles such that there is more than a remote likelihood that a misstatement of the entity's financial statements that is more than inconsequential will not be prevented or detected by the entity's internal control. We consider the deficiency described in the Audit Findings and Responses section of this report to be a significant deficiency in internal control over financial reporting.

A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies, that results in more than a remote likelihood that a material misstatement of the financial statements will not be prevented or detected by the entity's internal control.

Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in the internal control that might be significant deficiencies and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all significant deficiencies that are also considered to be material weaknesses. However, we believe that the significant deficiency described above is not a material weakness.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the State's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Management's response to the finding identified in our audit is included in the Audit Findings and Responses section of this report. We did not audit the response, and accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, Secretary Conti, others within the entity, and federal awarding agencies and pass-through entities and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.



Beth A. Wood, CPA
State Auditor
December 8, 2008

AUDIT FINDINGS AND RESPONSES

Matters Related to Financial Reporting

YEAR- END FINANCIAL REPORTING PROCESS DID NOT IDENTIFY ALL LIABILITIES

The Department's method to identify liabilities at year-end did not discover all outstanding obligations. Therefore, liability and expenditure account balances submitted for inclusion in the State's *Comprehensive Annual Financial Report* were understated, a condition that has been reported in previous years. While the condition continues to exist, the Department continued to improve its process this year.

The Department had recorded over \$240 million in accounts payable for the Highway Fund and over \$61 million for the Highway Trust Fund at year-end. Upon review of a sample of expenditures subsequent to year-end, we identified four payments totaling \$2.5 million for the Highway Fund, and \$1.8 million for the Highway Trust Fund, in unrecorded liabilities.

The Office of the State Controller's expenditure recognition policy states that expenditures should be recognized if the amount due is determined by July 31 and the services were received by June 30. The policy further states that judgment and materiality should be applied to items received after the July 31 cutoff. Although the payments for the unrecorded liabilities noted above were not made until after July 31, 2008, the invoices had been received by the Department prior to that date and thus could have been included in the reported amount.

Recommendation: The Department should continue its efforts to capture all liabilities at year-end and effectively implement procedures to achieve accurate financial reporting.

Auditee's Response: The Department did not include \$4.3 million in outstanding obligations for FY 2007-2008. These items were contract and grant payments that were paid after the year-end accrual process was completed. The total audit finding is 1.4 percent of the total outstanding accounts payable accruals (\$301 million) and less than 1 percent of total outstanding obligation accruals (\$486.7 million). Due to the lack of materiality, no audit adjustment to the final *CAFR* statements was required.

The Department will continue to emphasize to its staff the importance of all bills being submitted to accounting on a timely basis for inclusion in the accrued liabilities.

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Audit reports issued by the Office of the State Auditor can be obtained from the web site at www.ncauditor.net. Also, parties may register on the web site to receive automatic email notification whenever reports of interest are issued. Otherwise, copies of audit reports may be obtained by contacting the:

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