

North Carolina Artificial Intelligence Leadership Council

Co-Chairs:

Nate Denny, Secretary of N.C. Department of Information Technology and State CIO

Lee Lilley, Secretary of North Carolina Department of Commerce

Meeting Minutes

June 9th, 2026, 2:00 - 5:00pm

325 N Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27603

Albemarle Training Room 240

AI Leadership Council Members Present

Dr. Andrea Crowley

Leslie Boney

The Hon. Tommy Sowers

Mary Penny Kelley

Kunal Choksi

Vera Cubero

Marina Carreker

Phaedra Boinodiris

Dr. Angel Hsu (virtual)

Todd Olson

Dr. Stan Ahalt

Hannah Drummond

Markell Storay

The Hon. Shinica Thomas

Jennie Bowen

Sarah Bacha

Rep. Zack Hawkins (virtual)

Dr. Siobahn Day Grady (virtual)

AI Leadership Council Members Absent

Bryan Harris

Rep. Jake Johnson

Rick Knafelz

Sen. DeAndrea Salvador

Dr. David Yokum

Igor Jablokov

Sen. Todd Johnson

Sushma Masemore

Dr. Thomas Reardon

Facilitators

I-Sah Hsieh, Deputy Secretary for AI and Policy, NCDIT

Sofya Diktas, Manager for AI Products and Governance, NCDIT

Chris Brittingham, Technology Policy Analyst, NCDIT

Agenda

- I. Opening Remarks – Co-Chairs
- II. Review of AI Strategic Roadmap Draft
- III. Vote to Adopt AI Strategic Roadmap
- IV. AI Leadership Council Next Steps
- V. Adjournment

Meeting called to session at 2:08 p.m. by Sec. Lee Lilley.

Opening Remarks

Secretary Nate Denny began his opening remarks by welcoming the Council Members to the meeting and thanking everyone for all of the time. He expressed gratitude for all of the work since the Council was formed and the thoughtful input that Council members have given. He believes that these recommendations will benefit the entire state and make North Carolina a national leader in AI. He emphasized that AI governance and strategy constitute one of NCDIT's top four priorities.

Secretary Lilley followed by stating that he is excited to move the AI strategy forward in the state. He noted that while the council's work will continue over the next year, we have made significant strides in our efforts to bolster the state workforce and economy. He highlighted ongoing efforts, including the Council's work with the Governor's Council on Workforce and Apprenticeships and the Energy Policy Task Force, and affirmed the state's commitment to navigating emerging technological pressures thoughtfully.

Deputy Secretary of AI and Policy I-Sah Hsieh gave brief remarks that he is excited for the discussion on the AI Strategic Roadmap and to hear the vote at the end of the session.

Review of AI Strategic Roadmap

The council proceeded to review the goals and recommendations under the Protect category. Members broadly supported the initiatives, with a focus of discussions around how the state can protect residents from unemployment due to AI while also supporting North Carolina businesses. The conversation also focused heavily on empowering local governments and supporting these local government officials in their AI transformation.

The first question on unemployment was focused on how the state can make sure that policies that disincentivize unemployment do not slow or hinder business. A follow up point was raised that, while we should not hinder business, the state should allow residents to have a say in the AI technologies that are used. Chris Brittingham stated that as part of the work the Council will do moving forward is to define how we can best create this policy that empowers both residents and businesses. The Council's work will allow a diverse group of viewpoints to provide input, both from a business and labor side.

The next topic discussed was around data centers and allowing local governments to take the lead in creating AI consumption metrics for data centers. Chris agreed that local governments are a huge part of the effort and a primary owner of this recommendation. Secretary Denny also stated that local governments are currently taking the lead in data center research in their areas and the state will continue to support the local governments' decision-making. There have been multiple moratoriums throughout the state led by local governments

The Council then moved to the Prepare category. Council members appreciated the call to action for libraries and higher education institutions throughout the state. Council members raised the concern that if a recommendation has too many owners, the work may slow down. The other primary issue raised is that many of these goals can, and should, be accomplished sooner than identified. The Council agreed that these timelines should be sped up. Many of the tasks involving businesses and universities are already underway and can be accomplished this year.

A point was brought up that many of these recommendations appear to be leaning to supporting this younger workforce, and how can we support the older workforce. Sofya Diktas said that goals around re-employment, credentialing, and building a culture of change are focused on the whole workforce, not just the younger population. The rest of the Council agreed that credentialing and upskilling efforts are the best way to target the whole workforce.

The other main topic brought up was how we can properly educate K-12 students in AI without introducing additional screens or completely changing curriculum. The Council Member from Department of Public Instruction discussed the Generative AI Recommendations for PK-13 Education and how this discusses incorporating AI skills in current curriculum while grounding education in human durable skills. The Council then discussed a change in the wording of the document that focuses K-12 education in developmentally appropriate curriculum. The Council agreed with the minor update to the wording.

The Council then moved to the Transform category. This section focused heavily on transforming state government services to support the residents and upskilling the workforce to better respond to changes in the AI landscape. Council Members were overall satisfied with the recommendations, emphasizing that Council Members will support initiatives and give lessons learned from their sectors.

Vote to Adopt AI Strategic Roadmap

Secretary Denny requested a motion to vote to adopt the AI strategic Roadmap. He received a motion and a second. He then called on a vote by Council Members.

In Favor:

Dr. Andrea Crowley

Todd Olson

Leslie Boney

Dr. Stan Ahalt

The Hon. Tommy Sowers

Mary Penny Kelley

Markell Storay

Kunal Choksi

The Hon. Shinica Thomas

Vera Cubero
Jennie Bowen
Marina Carreker
Sarah Bacha
Phaedra Boinodiris
Rep. Zack Hawkins
Dr. Siobahn Day Grady

Opposed:
Hannah Drummond

Note: Dr. Angel Hsu was present at the beginning of the meeting but was not present for the final vote.

The AI Strategic Roadmap was approved to be adopted and sent to Governor Stein. Secretary Denny emphasized that the staff will do final reviews and can make any non-substantive wording and formatting changes prior to publishing.

AI Leadership Council Next Steps

In closing, the AI Leadership Council staff thanked everyone for attending and for providing discussions throughout the process. The staff stated that the Council will continue to meet quarterly and the next phase will be to proceed with implementing the goals and recommendations. They also said that new subcommittees may form to better align the work being done implementing the Roadmap. The staff said that the Roadmap will be published on June 30th, with another Roadmap published June 2027 with status updates and any newly identified action items, as the Council adjusts to the shifting AI landscape.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm.