



Town of Pittsboro, North Carolina

Department of Planning

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Bryan Gruesbeck, Town Manager

FROM: Jeff Jones, Planning Director

SUBJECT: State Transportation Improvement Projects 4.0

DATE: April 20, 2016

Throughout 2015 and 2016, the Triangle Area Rural Planning Organization (TARPO), along with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), will go through a process to identify and prioritize transportation projects for inclusion in the state's next Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). This process, known as "Prioritization 4.0" is directly tied to the Strategic Transportation Investments law that passed the General Assembly in 2013. In 2013, the North Carolina General Assembly enacted House Bill 817, the Strategic Transportation Investments (STI) law, which represents a fundamental change in the way transportation projects are prioritized and funded in North Carolina. As part of the STI prioritization process, RPOs have an opportunity to assign "local prioritization points" to projects in their regions. In 2012, the General Assembly enacted Session Law 2012-84, which requires RPOs to have a documented data-driven process for assigning these local input points. In December 2012, the TARPO Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) adopted a policy regarding the assignment of points, which has been amended several times over the years. Because of changes made in the mechanics of the STI process in 2015, the RTAC made additional amendments to the policy at its October 21, 2015 meeting.

In the summer of 2015, the TARPO RTAC appointed a subcommittee composed of staff from local governments and the NCDOT to develop a draft list of projects to be submitted for funding consideration in Prioritization 4.0. Membership on this subcommittee was open to any staff wishing to participate. The subcommittee held two meetings, on July 17, 2015, and on August 13, 2015. Following the August subcommittee meeting, the proposed draft list of projects (see below) was circulated to member governments for their approval and/or comments.

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Chatham County Combined Project List (Carry-over and New)

CARRY-OVER

- Sidewalk/path project on E Raleigh St in Siler City, from 6th Ave to US 64 (Bike/Ped)
- NC 87 modernization project, from NC 902 to Alamance County line (Highway)
- US 15-501 widening to 3 lanes in Pittsboro, from NC 87 to Robeson Creek (Highway)

NEW

- NC 751 widening project, from US 64 to O'Kelly Chapel Road (Highway)
- Pittsboro-Moncure Rd modernization project, from US 15-501 to Old US 1 (Highway)
- US 64 median/sidewalk/bike lane project, from Greensboro Ave to Stockyard Rd (Highway)
- Hamlets Chapel Rd/Jones Ferry Rd bike lane project, from US 15-501 to Orange/Chatham line (Bike/Ped)
- Improvements to sidewalk ramps, crosswalks, and pedestrian crossings at railroads at 8 locations in Downtown Siler City (Bike/Ped)
- N Chatham Ave sidewalk project, from Craven St to town limits of Siler City (Bike/Ped)
- 2nd Ave road diet/bike/ped project, from Greensboro Ave to Fayetteville Ave in Siler City (Bike/Ped)
- E 3rd St sidewalk project, from US 64 to N 5th Ave in Siler City (Bike/Ped)
- Runway extension at Siler City Airport, including parallel taxiway, safety area grading, and relocation of a portion of Airport Road (Aviation)

In October and November 2015, TARPO staff entered the list of new project submittals that had been approved by the RTAC into NCDOT's SPOT Online database. In addition to the new projects approved by TARPO, other projects within the TARPO region could be considered for P4.0 if they were submitted by a neighboring MPO or RPO, if they were submitted by one of the NCDOT Division offices, or if they automatically carried-forward for consideration from the P3.0 project list.

Schedule for Implementation of Policy in Prioritization 4.0

- *Adoption of this Revised Policy – October 8, 2015 (Public Hearing at beginning of RTAC meeting)*
- *RTCC & RTAC Adoption of Project List to Submit to NCDOT – October 8, 2015*
- *TARPO Staff Submits New Projects to NCDOT – October 2015*
- *NCDOT Provides Scoring Information to TARPO – end of March 2016*
- **Each county/municipality will approve a ranked list of its top ten projects and submit this list to TARPO (the list should be developed jointly by the county and towns within the county) – late March/early April 2016**
- *TARPO Staff Will Calculate Scores for Local Point Assignment and Post the Draft Point Assignments on the TARPO Website – late April/early May 2016*
- *Public Workshop(s) to Present Local Point Assignment and Gather Input – late April/early May 2016*
- *RTCC & RTAC Adoption of Regional Impact Local Point Assignments – late May 2016 (final point assignments will be posted on TARPO website following meeting)*
- *RTCC & RTAC Adoption of Division Needs Local Point Assignments – August 2016 (final point assignments will be posted on TARPO website following meeting)*
- *NCDOT Releases Draft STIP – December 2016 (this information will be posted on the TARPO website once available)*

On April 13th, TARPO received scores for the projects submitted from NCDOT. These score were distributed to the County and to each municipality so that staff from respective communities could work together to rank the Top Ten projects. In Chatham County staff from the County, Siler City and Pittsboro met on April 1st, 2016 to discuss the project list and to decide on a method for ranking the projects. Collectively, we decided to allow the rankings from NCDOT be our guide for determining the Top Ten projects. The Top Ten projects as ranked by NCDOT is as followed:

1. A130469 – Siler City Airport runway extension and parallel taxiway
2. B140577 – E 3rd Street Sidewalk in Siler City
3. B150684 – Chatham Avenue Sidewalk in Siler City
4. H150762 – US 64 & NC 751 Interchange
5. H090555A – NC 751 widening
6. B150436 – Downtown Siler City Pedestrian Improvements
7. H090568 – Pittsboro Moncure Road modernization improvements
8. B150689 – 2nd Avenue Road Diet in Siler City
9. H090562 – Improvements to Sanford Rd (US 15-501) in Pittsboro
10. B150427 (Hamlets Chapel/Jones Ferry bike lanes)

Chatham County decided to remove number 4 H150762 – US 64 & NC 751 Interchange from the list all together because that project had not gone through their public process. This leave one slot open as all the remaining projects move up one number and the NC 87 project, H090302 highway modernization project moves into the 10th spot.

The Top Ten list under consideration is ranked as follows:

1. A130469 – Siler City Airport runway extension and parallel taxiway
2. B140577 – E 3rd Street Sidewalk in Siler City
3. B150684 – Chatham Avenue Sidewalk in Siler City
4. H090555A – NC 751 widening
5. B150436 – Downtown Siler City Pedestrian Improvements
6. H090568 – Pittsboro Moncure Road modernization improvements
7. B150689 – 2nd Avenue Road Diet in Siler City
8. H090562 – Improvements to Sanford Rd (US 15-501) in Pittsboro
9. B150427 – Hamlets Chapel/Jones Ferry bike lanes
10. H090302 – NC 87 Modernization improvements

Board Action

Consider approving the SPOT 4.0 Recommended Ranked Project List for Chatham County, Town of Siler City, and Town of Pittsboro (attached).