

Triangle Area RPO Prioritization Subcommittee
July 19, 2017, 10:00 am Conference Call

Committee Members in Attendance:

Bryan Kluchar, NCDOT Division 8
Ed Lewis, NCDOT Division 7
David Montgomery, Lee County representative
Cara Coppola, Chatham County representative
Debra Ensminger, Moore County alternate representative

Others in Attendance:

Matt Day, TJCOG
Pam Graham, Aberdeen
Jack Meadows, Siler City (Chatham County alternate representative)
Landon Russell, Citizen

The committee reviewed a summary of comments that had been received from local governments during the May/June review period. No comments had been received from the general public.

Summary of Comments Received During the Comment Period:

- Resolutions of support received from Broadway, Chatham County, Foxfire Village, Lee County (with comment), Pittsboro (with comments), Sanford, Siler City, and Southern Pines.
- Orange County submitted a resolution indicating the full list of projects they were submitting for consideration (including some that did not make the cut in the Subcommittee's May 1, 2017 list). Due to the county's meeting schedule there was not time for them to reconsider the shortened list. However, their top three priorities as noted in their resolution are the three Orange County projects that made the subcommittee's cut.
- Email comments also received from Aberdeen and Pinehurst.
- Aberdeen comment: The Mike Place sidewalk project should include sidewalks on the adjoining section of Magnolia Drive that is owned by NCDOT (between Robbins Road and Newington Way). The Town would also coordinate with the Town of Southern Pines regarding the Poplar Street pedestrian project.
- Pinehurst comment: The project on NC 5 for turn lane/intersection/operations improvements should extend all the way from the southern village limits to NC 211 (not just on the section between Linden and Morganton).
- Pittsboro comments:
 - The description of the Chatham Parkway project should be "From US 15-501 to end of section being built by developer (in the vicinity of Russet Run). Construct new 2-lane road on 4-lane right of way."
 - If possible, consider adding another sidewalk project: on US 15-501 from Powell Place to Northwood High School Road.
- Lee County comment: Noted that the Kelly Drive improvements are the county's top priority.

Additionally, Mr. Day noted that due to revisions in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, the NC 78 widening project that was recommended in the May 1, 2017 list would no longer

need to be submitted as a new project, because NCDOT now considered this to be a carry-over project. This would open up an additional slot for a highway project to be added.

The committee recommended the following changes to the draft project list that was posted on May 1, 2017:

- Change description of Chatham Parkway project as requested by the Town of Pittsboro.
- Remove NC 78 widening project due to this now being an automatic carry-over project.
- Add Commerce Drive extension in Sanford, from the end of the existing road to Lee Avenue. This is as a replacement of the NC 78 project. The committee noted that the Commerce Drive extension project was expected to score poorly based on NCDOT's scoring criteria, and that if another project idea were to come up at a later date that had a better chance of funding, then it could potentially replace this project.
- Change description of NC 5 project as requested by the Village of Pinehurst.
- Remove Maple Avenue sidewalk project, at the request of the Town of Aberdeen. Replace this project with a proposed project to improve sidewalks/crosswalks in the downtown area. This request was made during the meeting.
- Leave the Mike Place sidewalk project as-is, without expanding the project to include Magnolia Drive. This request was made by the Town of Aberdeen during the meeting.
- Change the description of the Poplar Street pedestrian project to note that it should be a "sidewalk" rather than a "multi-use path" and that the southern limit of the project should be at Johnson Street rather than at Peach Street. This request was made by the Town of Aberdeen during the meeting.
- Recommend that the Town of Pittsboro ask Division 8 to submit their additional sidewalk project as a Division-submitted project rather than an RPO-submitted project since the RPO had already filled its maximum number of allowed projects. Division 8 is permitted to submit bicycle/pedestrian projects on behalf of local jurisdictions.

All business being completed, the meeting was adjourned around 10:40 am.