

BOARD OF ALDERMEN
AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

ITEM NO. D(3)

MEETING DATE: MAY 3, 2005

TITLE: Draft 2006-2012 State Transportation Improvement Program

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING	PUBLIC HEARING: YES ___NO__X__
ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution B. Draft 2006-2012 Regional TIP C. Adopted 2006-2007 Local Priority List D. Adopted 2007-2013 Local Priority List	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Dale McKeel – 918-7329

PURPOSE

The purpose of this item is for the Board of Aldermen to review and comment on the draft 2006-2012 State Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Town staff has prepared a list of items for the Board consideration. A resolution has been prepared for the Board's adoption (Attachment A).

INFORMATION

The Transportation Improvement Program includes cost estimates and funding schedules for highway, bicycle, pedestrian, rail, public transit, and aviation projects over a seven year period. The Board of Transportation updates the TIP every other year.

The N.C. Board of Transportation released the draft 2006-2012 TIP on April 7, 2005. The estimated cost for the projects in the TIP is \$9.4 billion. The Board of Transportation is scheduled to adopt the final 2006-2012 TIP in July 2005. Attachment B is the draft TIP for the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Area.

PROCESS

The process for developing the Transportation Improvement Program is as follows:

1. The Town of Carrboro adopts a local project priority list (Attachment C), which is forwarded to the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO).
2. Using the local priority lists, the DCHC MPO releases a regional project priority list, which is forwarded to the N.C. Department of Transportation.

3. The N.C. Department of Transportation (NCDOT) develops the draft statewide Transportation Improvement Program, which includes a draft Metropolitan TIP (MTIP) for the DCHC MPO area.
4. Both NCDOT and the DCHC MPO hold public hearings and receive public comments on the draft TIP. The DCHC Transportation Advisory Committee will adopt its own version of the draft MTIP.
5. Representatives from the DCHC TAC and NCDOT meet to reconcile differences between the DCHC draft MTIP and the NCDOT draft MTIP.
6. The final MTIP is adopted by the DCHC TAC and the N.C. Board of Transportation.

WHAT'S IN THE DRAFT TIP FOR CARRBORO

This table compares the status of Carrboro projects in the FY 2004-2010 TIP with the FY 2006-2012 TIP. This table is included in order to compare the progress of projects in Carrboro from the current TIP to the proposed draft TIP. This table compares the total estimated cost, date of right-of-way acquisition, and construction date for Carrboro Projects:

Project Number	Project Name	Total Estimated Cost		Right-of-Way		Construction	
		FY 2004-2010	FY 2006-2012	FY 2004-2010	FY 2006-2012	FY 2004-2010	FY 2006-2012
E-4008	Roberson Place Bike Path	\$100 K	\$157 K	Under Const	Under Const	Under Const	Under Const
E-4544	S. Greensboro St. Sidewalk	No Listing	\$12 K	N/A	N/A	N/A	2005
E-4545	Old Fay Rd Sidewalk	\$91 K	\$73 K	Under Const	N/A	Under Const	2005
E-4710	Seawell Sch Rd Bike Lanes	Feasibility Study	\$650 K	N/A	N/A	N/A	2007
E-4780	Jones Ferry Road Sidewalk	No Listing	\$24 K	N/A	N/A	N/A	2005
E-4781	Carr Court Sidewalks	No Listing	\$98 K	N/A	N/A	N/A	2005
E-4942	Main Street Sidewalk	No Listing	\$7 K	N/A	N/A	N/A	2006
U-2803	Smith Level Rd Improvements	\$3.375 M	\$5.175 M	2003	2007	2004	2010
U-2805	Homestead Rd Improvements	\$7.2 M	\$10.6 M	2003	Not Funded	2005	Not Funded
U-2909	Estes Dr. Improvements	\$6.6 M	\$7.6 M	Not Funded	Not Funded	Not Funded	Not Funded
U-3100B	Old Fay Rd Improvements	\$2.05 M	\$2.6 M	2010	2012	Not Funded	Not Funded
U-4704	Signal System Improvements	\$5 M	\$4.6 M	N/A	N/A	Not Funded	Not Funded
U-4449	Real-Time Transit Information System	No Listing	\$1.248 M	N/A	N/A	N/A	In Progress
U-4723	Public Transit	\$6.9 M	6.9 M	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

	Improvements						
Z-4007B	Brewer Lane Railroad Crossing Signal	No Listing	\$95 K	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

OBSERVATIONS

The TIP contains several new bicycle and pedestrian projects that were not included in the 2004-2010 TIP. Most of these are enhancement projects funded through a competitive selection process. The most significant new project is funding for bike lanes on Seawell School Road.

There is still no funding for the Town's perennial high priority project, Estes Drive. In 2004, both the Town and the MPO requested that this project be constructed in two phases, with Phase 1 being from Greensboro to Seawell School Road. Phase 2 would be from Seawell School Road to NC 86 (Martin Luther King Boulevard nee Airport Road) and would be postponed until plans for Carolina North are more firm (current UNC plans call for this section of Estes Drive to be relocated). This request is not reflected in the TIP.

Work on other local projects has also been delayed or removed from the draft TIP. Funding for Project U-2805, Homestead Road, has been removed from the TIP; at the request of the Town of Chapel Hill, these funds were re-allocated to the new transit maintenance facility near Eubanks Road. Right-of-way acquisition for Project U-3100B, Old Fayetteville Road, has moved from 2010 to 2012. Right-of-way acquisition for Smith Level Road has moved from 2003 to 2007, with construction moving from 2004 to 2010.

The TIP also added \$1.354 million to the cost of the Smith Level Road project. In light of the fact that the project will impact 0.005 acres of wetlands, NCDOT will be re-evaluating and updating this cost estimate prior to releasing the final 2006-2012 TIP in July.

Please note that Town and MPO staff are evaluating the draft TIP to determine if other communities (particularly in Division 7) were subject to delays for projects already in the TIP and lack of funding for new projects. This information will be shared with the Board of Aldermen when completed.

The TIP also contains \$6.9 million in funding for Chapel Hill Transit buses and for a \$1.2 million real-time transit information system. There is also funding for a railroad crossing signal on Brewer Lane.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The Board of Aldermen should review the draft TIP and adopt a resolution providing comments to the North Carolina Department of Transportation and the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro MPO Transportation Advisory Committee. Using the 2007-2013 Local Priority List adopted by the Board of Aldermen (Attachment D), Town staff has included several suggested comments in the resolution (Attachment A).

