

# BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. D(2)

## AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: May 17, 2011

**TITLE: 2014-2020 Transportation Improvement Program Local Priority List**

<b>DEPARTMENT:</b> Planning	<b>PUBLIC HEARING:</b> YES ___ NO ___ X ___
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b> A. Resolutions B. Transportation Advisory Board recommendation C. Press release and advertisement	<b>FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:</b> Jeff Brubaker – 918-7329

### PURPOSE

The Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) has developed a draft 2014-2020 Local Priority List (*Attachment B*) of transportation improvement projects. The Board of Aldermen is asked to review the draft, make changes if necessary, and consider adopting a final Local Priority List.

### INFORMATION

The 2014-2020 Local Priority List contains highway, bicycle, and pedestrian projects of importance to the community. The TAB developed the draft list at its April 21 and May 5 regular meetings. The April 21 meeting included an opportunity for public comment. An advertisement and press release for the public comment opportunity are included in *Attachment C*.

The projects will be evaluated by both NCDOT and the MPO for consideration in the 2014-2020 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The following table is a guide for what the Town should submit to the MPO, according to MPO staff instructions. *Note that a "Rail" category has been added based on new instructions from the MPO. Further explanation is below.*

Category	Classification	What can be submitted
Highway	Mobility	* Up to 3 <i>new</i> projects (i.e. not already on the 2009-2015 STIP or 2012-2018 MPO Regional Priority List) * Projects already on the 2009-2015 STIP or 2012-2018 MPO Regional Priority List will already be included in NCDOT's prioritization. They can be submitted for informational purposes.
	Modernization (*includes on-road bicycle improvements > \$1 million)	
Bicycle	On-road improvements < \$1 million; all greenway	* Up to 6 new or existing projects

	projects	
Pedestrian	--	* Up to 6 new or existing projects
<i>Rail</i>	--	<i>* No specific guidance; see below for typical projects that have been included in the STIP.</i>

## Transit Projects

Transit operators are responsible for submitting transit projects for prioritization. However, the Board may choose to adopt a resolution expressing its support for one or more transit projects. Note that this would be advisory only as local jurisdictions have only been asked to submit highway, bicycle, pedestrian, and rail (see below) projects. Therefore, a separate part of the resolution in *Attachment A* is reserved for expressing transit priorities. According to MPO guidance, only new capital projects that could potentially be funded in FY 2013, 2014, and 2015 should be included. The draft list recommended by the TAB includes one transit project:

- Fixed Guideway – Connection to Carolina North / Horace Williams property

## Rail Projects

The NCDOT Rail Division has its own prioritization process. On May 5, MPO staff forwarded a request from the Rail Division that the Town submit any rail projects it might want to pursue to the Division for prioritization. MPO staff suggested that these projects be included on the Local Priority List, even if they will be prioritized separately. Typically, Rail Division projects have included grade crossing safety improvements, highway/rail traffic separation studies and projects, and other capital projects (such as station improvements) for cities and towns that have passenger rail service.

One rail safety project – Z-4007B – Brewer Ln. crossing improvements – was previously on the STIP but cancelled while UNC decides on the future of this corridor and the means of delivering fuel to the co-generation plant on Cameron Ave. in the future. In UNC's planned transition from coal to an alternative fuel, there has not yet been a final decision on how the new fuels will be transported.

Because of the timing of the rail project notification, the request was not able to be included on the TAB agenda. Thus, the TAB did not consider rail projects in the development of its draft list. A recent Board action that potentially relates to the rail corridor was on November 9, 2010. The Board resolved that:

- 1) Provision of light rail or another higher-order transit service to Carrboro should continue to be analyzed in future transportation planning processes, including the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan;
- 2) Town staff are directed to explore resources for a feasibility study on opportunities and constraints of extending regional rail service to Carrboro, coordinating with the Town of Chapel Hill;
- 3) The design of a regional rail segment to UNC Hospitals should not preclude extensions to Downtown Chapel Hill, Downtown Carrboro, and Carolina North;

The minutes of the meeting are available at the following link:  
[http://townofcarrboro.org/BoA/Minutes/2010/11\\_09\\_2010.pdf](http://townofcarrboro.org/BoA/Minutes/2010/11_09_2010.pdf).

## **Background**

The Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) must be a subset of the MPO's adopted Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

Background information on the 2014-2020 STIP is available in the April 5, 2011, agenda item and attachments: [http://townofcarrboro.org/BoA/Agendas/2011/04\\_05\\_2011.htm](http://townofcarrboro.org/BoA/Agendas/2011/04_05_2011.htm) (Item D3).

## **FISCAL AND STAFF IMPACT**

Staff impact is estimated to be approximately 5 hours in submitting the Local Priority List to MPO staff and communicating with MPO staff.

The fiscal impact is unknown at this time. Until the 2014-2020 STIP is approved, it is uncertain what local projects will be funded in the associated fiscal years. For projects that do receive funding, their costs will be borne in whole or in part by federal and-or state transportation funding sources, which offers the potential to offset local capital project funding needs. Funded projects are likely to be scheduled for fiscal years 2016-2020.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommend that the Board consider the resolution in *Attachment A*. the resolution in *Attachment A*.