

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. D(5)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: November 22, 2011

TITLE: 2014-2020 Transportation Improvement Program Regional Priority List and 2016-2020 STP-DA Call for Projects

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| DEPARTMENT: Planning | PUBLIC HEARING: YES ___ NO _X_ |
| ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolutions B. Transportation Advisory Board recommendation – Draft Regional Priority List C. Transportation Advisory Board recommendation – STP-DA D. Press release and advertisement E. 2014-2020 Local Priority List – Adopted by the Board of Aldermen on May 17, 2011 | FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeff Brubaker – 918-7329 |

PURPOSE

The Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) has developed a recommendation with comments on project rankings in the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization's (DCHC-MPO) draft 2014-2020 Regional Priority List (*Attachment B*). The TAB has also prepared a preliminary list of potential STP-DA projects for the 2016-2020 period (*Attachment C*), but needs more time to finalize the list.

INFORMATION

2014-2020 Regional Priority List

The 2014-2020 Regional Priority List contains highway, bicycle, and pedestrian projects of importance to the region. It is a combination of projects on MPO jurisdictions' local priority lists (2014-2020), jurisdictions' previous local priority lists (2011-2017), and NCDOT highway division project submittals. The projects are evaluated by NCDOT's Strategic Planning Office on Transportation (SPOT) and by the MPO. The SPOT evaluations have two main components: a score based on quantitative ranking methodology and a rating from the MPO. The MPO rating is informed by the MPO's own ranking methodology.

For more information on the methodologies:

- SPOT website: <http://www.ncdot.org/performance/reform/prioritization/>
- MPO: http://www.dchcmpo.org/dmdocuments/Priority_Methodology_14-20_TIP_-_approved_6-22-2011.pdf

Timeline

- April 5, 2011 – Board directs TAB to prepare a draft Local Priority List
- April 21 and May 5, 2011 – TAB develops draft Local Priority list
- May 17, 2011 – Board adopts Local Priority List
- June 2011 – MPO approves list of projects to be evaluated
- October 30, 2011 – MPO releases draft Regional Priority List for public comment and memorandum describing the process
- November 9, 2011 – Public hearing at MPO Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting
- December 13, 2011 – Deadline to make comments on draft List
- December 14, 2011 – TAC expected to approve a final Regional Priority List.

A more detailed background is available in Board agenda materials from the meetings listed above.

Background information from the MPO is available at: <http://www.dchcmo.org/> (“2014-2020 Transportation Improvement Program” link).

The TAB has developed a list of recommended comments on the draft Regional Priority List. The recommendation is in *Attachment B*.

2016-2020 STP-DA Call for Projects

The TAB has developed a preliminary list of projects (*Attachment C*). However, more time is needed to finalize a list. MPO staff have indicated that the Call for Projects may not be issued until winter or spring 2012; thus, there should be time to finalize the list in January and February. Town staff will continue to monitor the Call for Projects timeline and update the Board appropriately.

FISCAL AND STAFF IMPACT

Minimal short-term fiscal or staff impacts accrue from approving comments on the draft Regional Priority List.

The mid-term 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 resolutions in *Attachment A*.