



Legislation Text

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TITLE:

Consideration of Transportation Projects for Regional Flexible Funding

PURPOSE: The purpose of this agenda item is to provide the Town Council with information about federal funding allocated to the DCHC MPO for transportation projects, to evaluate possible Town projects that appear to be candidates for the funding, and to begin to consider whether to submit any or all of these projects for possible funding.

DEPARTMENT: Planning

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INFORMATION: On November 7, 2022, the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) released a call for transportation projects for federal funding allocated to the MPO. In previous years, “calls for projects” would occur throughout the year based on the source of the federal funding. Last year, the DCHC MPO restructured the process to pool funds into a single selection process with MPO staff assisting with the initial review of projects and preparation of a recommendation for the source of funding based on the project description. Funding is anticipated to be available from the following federal programs: Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ), Transportation Block Grant Direct Attributable (STBGDA), and Transportation Alternatives Program Direct Attributable (TAPDA).

Since there is a relatively short window of time before the submittal deadline on December 9th, staff has identified a handful of projects that the Council has previously considered as priorities for evaluation. These include:

- bike lanes along Hillsborough Road from Old Fayetteville to Calvander
- sidepath along Seawell School Road
- a section of sidepath along Homestead Road
- Phase 2 of the Morgan Creek Greenway

The first two projects (the bike lanes and sidepath) have been submitted as part of the previous prioritization process for federal funding administered by NCDOT but have not yet been selected for funding; the sidepath along Homestead Road is part of a priority project in the 2020 Bicycle Plan Update; and Phase 2 of the Morgan Creek Greenway would continue the momentum of that project and get the terminus point closer to destinations such as University Lake.

A couple of important notes:

- Applicants can seek funding for new and existing projects.
- Applicants are encouraged to submit bicycle, pedestrian, and transit projects to support the growth of a multimodal network.

- All funding sources require a 20-percent local match.

Information relating to the Regional Flexible Funding policy and scoring rubric is provided (*Attachment B & Attachment C*). Staff is in the process of analyzing the four projects based on the scoring rubric to determine which, if any, would be strong candidates for the RFF. Staff is also developing updated cost estimates for Town projects already programmed in NCDOT's 2024-2033 draft STIP to determine if additional funding may be needed.

FISCAL & STAFF IMPACT: There is no fiscal impact associated with the discussion of this item. Selected projects would require a 20-percent local match and staff time to administer the project funds and to manage the design and construction of the project.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the Town Council consider the resolution (*Attachment A*) reviewing the information, providing initial feedback on the possible project candidates, and directing staff to submit a final list of project(s).