

**SUMMARY OF BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN
ADVISORY BOARD ACTION**

ATTACHMENT 6

(25)

Subject: Chapel Hill Transportation Project Priority List for 2007 -2013
State Transportation Improvement Program

Meeting Date: February 22, 2005

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board make the following comments that:

The existing 2006-2012 Chapel Hill priority list contains 24 projects, most of these improvements are less extensive in scope than traditional new road construction and are to facilitate alternative forms of transportation. However when evaluated by the DCHCMPO staff against more traditional road construction projects they are failing to attract enough points.

The Board considers that the current list should be re-evaluated by the Town Manager with a view to targeting projects to the DCHCMPO evaluation criteria and defining benefits. Perhaps this justification material should be provided to the MPO as supplementary supporting information. Such information would include how projects relate to the Town's adopted transportation strategy and plans. One approach might be that the Town Council makes a stronger case for a shorter list of projects.

The Board notes that different projects on the existing list specify various widths of travel lanes and bicycle lanes, it suggests that it is not necessary to specify these within the list and that the words "bicycle facilities" should be substituted for the words "bicycle lanes" as the precise type of facility would be determined on case by case basis in accordance with the Town's adopted bicycle facilities policy and State practice.

The Board suggests that words "transit accommodations" should be added to all the projects descriptions that include the provision of sidewalks and bicycle facilities.

The Board also suggests the following projects for inclusion in a revised Transportation Project Priority List: *(Please note that these are in no particular order of priority.)*

1. Airport Road Corridor Improvement – North Street to Homestead Road- retrofit with landscaped median, sidewalks, crossing facilities and bicycle facilities.
2. Fordham Boulevard Corridor Improvement- US 15-501 South at Culbreth Road to Ephesus Church Road- Intersection improvements and a bicycle and pedestrian path/route. Project to include:
 - improvement for bicyclists and pedestrians at:
 - NC Highway 54 and US 15-501
 - US 15-501 South and Culbreth Road and Mount Carmel Church Road
 - US 15-501 North and Ephesus Church Road
 - a path/route using a combination of existing streets parallel to Fordham Boulevard connected with new off-road paths.
 - bicycle and pedestrian crossings at selected street intersections along the corridor.

Please note that this project would include existing Chapel Hill Priority project # 21

- 3. NC 54 Corridor Improvement- From intersection of NC 54 with Fordham Boulevard to Barbee Chapel Road. Project to include:
 - improvement for bicyclists and pedestrians at NC Highway 54 and US 15-501
 - bicycle and pedestrian crossings at selected street intersections and
 - extension of existing off- road path from Finley Golf Course Road to Prestwick Road.

Reasons:

- The Town has secured approximately \$200,000 in State Transportation Direct Allocation (STPDA) funds to construct missing sidewalks on parts of Airport Road between Estes Drive and Homestead Road. However, the 2004 NC86/Airport Road study commissioned by the Town recommends bicycle and pedestrian improvements to Airport Road which are beyond the current project scope and STPDA funding available.
- The Bicycle and Pedestrian Action Plan, adopted October 27, 2004, identifies that improvements are needed for bicyclists and pedestrians to use these transportation corridors. Improvements include the provision of sidewalks, bicycle facilities, off road paths, safe ways through or around intersections and the provision of pedestrian crossings. It is considered that these improvements identified in various locations long the corridors should be packaged into corridor improvement projects.

Jed Dube (Chair), Nick Lurie, Heidi Perry, Tim Saunders, Brian Decker, and Ray Piplani.

Prepared by:

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