

Pender County Planning and Community Development

Planning Division

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MEMORANDUM

To: Pender County Planning Board

From: Planning Staff

Date: December 1, 2015

RE: Collector Street Plan and Comprehensive Plan Updates

Staff will continue to provide you with an update at each Planning Board meeting regarding the Collector Street Plan and Comprehensive Land Use Plan update process. Below is a summary of the status of each plan update since our last discussion.

Pender County Collector Street Plan

Planning Staff continues to work in coordination with the Wilmington MPO and Stantec on the Collector Street Plan update. The Collector Street Plan Steering Committee has met twice previously (August 13, 2015 and October 1, 2015). Additionally, a stakeholder meeting was held on October 1, 2015 to garner public input from citizens at Heidi Trask High School. On October 26, 2015 Staff presented an update to the Board of County Commissioners on the project.

At this time the Steering Committee has reviewed; an existing conditions chapter, environmental features of the study area and initial survey results. The consultant conducted a ground truthing exercise where they did field work to determine suitability for proposed collector roadways.

The Steering Committee will meet on December 3, 2015 at 3PM to review;

1. Survey results

The collector street plan survey is located at www.pendercollector.com and continues to be available for more input. The consultant has been sharing the preliminary results with the Steering Committee.

2. Proposed collector street plan network

The draft collector street plan network was designed using the intensity of development (that the particular zoning district would support) coupled with spacing standards between streets in combination with environmental features and proposed new developments. If possible new collectors are designed to avoid environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands to extents practical, while still providing level of service to improve the roadway network in Pender County.

3. Cross sections for future collector roadways

The cross sections are a plan for specific design standards within an identified public collector roadway. This includes elements such as sidewalks, multi-use paths, bike lanes and lane width.

4. Further the discussion on policies

Planning Staff continues to work with Stantec towards the drafting of the Collector Street Plan with input from both the Steering Committee and citizens.

Comprehensive Land Use Plan

Planning Staff continues to work on preliminary planning and information inventory in preparation for a consultant beginning work on the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. This information includes:

- Definition of small area plan boundaries
- Existing plan inventory
- Goals and policies matrix
- Existing land use survey

Interviews were held on October 14, 2015 and November 13, 2015. Representatives from the Planning Board, as well as, Staff were actively involved in interviews and selection of the consultant. At this time, Pender County is working on a contract and scope of agreed upon work with Stantec, who is anticipated to begin work once these documents can be finalized and the Board of Commissioners approves the contract. It is anticipated that this will be up for approval on the Board's January agenda.

On August 17, 2015 Planning Staff learned that Pender County has been selected to receive \$10,000 in Partners for Green Growth funding from NC Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) to use towards incorporation of conservation methods into the update of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Staff will work with NCWRC to develop and gain approval on a contract funding agreement, at this time NCWRC is still developing a contract with Pender County. A brief summary of the Partners for Green Growth funding is as follows:

- The purpose is to fund land use planning projects that address conservation of priority wildlife habitats. Our proposal is to use funding to develop and incorporate a conservation component into the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (in conjunction with the Plan update).
- The funding amount is \$10,000.
- Invited full applications are due September 10 (non-competitive).
- 50% non-federal in-kind match is required. Our proposal is to calculate match using:
 - Staff time calculated at approximately \$20.00 per hour: \$2,500 (125 hours) for existing conditions inventory, site visits, conservation data analysis, coordination with consultant and NC Wildlife Resources Commission for integration of final conservation product within Comp Plan
 - 7.5 percent of County payment to consultant (total contract will be \$100,000): \$7,500 for conservation data analysis and conservation policy recommendation for inclusion into Comprehensive Land Use Plan
- Work must be completed within a year.
- Funds will be distributed as reimbursement (by September 16, 2016).
- Pender County is eligible for 40 hours of technical assistance from NC Wildlife Resources Commission as part of the funding.

Planning Staff appreciates your input throughout the process for these plan updates.