

Pender County Planning and Community Development

Planning Division

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MEMORANDUM

To: Pender County Planning Board

From: Planning Staff

Date: November 1, 2016

RE: Bicycle and Pedestrian Prioritization

Planning Staff has been working to catalog all projects related to planned bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure which Pender County has identified in an adopted plan or as part of a regional planning effort. After all projects are identified, then all projects should be prioritized. The prioritization then would direct staff in applying for grants or which projects specifically to invest time in. A comprehensive list of projects which have been identified as part of bicycle or pedestrian infrastructure investments are included as Attachment 1.

There is both a transportation element and a recreation element to bicycle and pedestrian facilities. In many of the projects included, the recommendation would be the only safe and viable option for the traveling public without a vehicle to access healthy food or services. Additionally, in the urbanizing areas of Pender County many of the facilities for bicycle and pedestrians would provide for safe access and recreational opportunities.

Plans Including Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects

There are many adopted plans, locally and in the region, which impact bicycle and pedestrian planning in Pender County. Specifically, this includes; Cape Fear Commutes 2040, Pender County Comprehensive Transportation Plan, the Cape Fear Bicycle Plan, the Pender County Collector Street Plan, the East Coast Greenway, the Mountains to Sea Trail route, the Currie Small Area Plan, the Maple Hill Small Area Plan and the Pender County Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Criteria Proposed for Prioritization

This is included in the packet as Attachment 2. The direction for criteria has come from the adopted Parks and Recreation Board criteria for parks facilities. Staff has modified the criteria specifically to address lineal bicycle and pedestrian facilities. There may be additional criteria warranted which includes transit options rather than strictly aimed at recreation activities.

Direction From Planning Board

Direction is needed in order to rank the projects given the criteria proposed. Staff will continue to work with transportation planning agencies; the Greater Wilmington Metropolitan Planning Organization (WMPO) and the Rural Planning Organization (RPO) towards implementation of projects with any funds.

Next Steps

1. Finalize the criteria for ranking projects
2. Map all bicycle and pedestrian facilities (recommended and existing)
3. Rank all bicycle and pedestrian projects in Pender County
4. Implementation