



## PUBLIC INFORMATION

ITEM NO. 4.

**DATE OF MEETING:** October 19, 2009

**REQUESTED BY:** Patrick T. Davenport, Director of Planning and Community Development

**SHORT TITLE:** Transportation Planning Initiatives

**BACKGROUND:** Pender County depends upon the Wilmington Area MPO and Cape Fear RPO to prioritize and forward proposed transportation projects to the State Transportation Board for further prioritization and inclusion in the State-wide Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). Currently, there is no formal process in place for staff or the County to collect requests directly from the public, the Planning Board, or Board of Commissioners and forward those items to the MPO and RPO. By offering an improved method and additional opportunities to collect community input for transportation improvement projects in Pender County, we could receive greater attention for future projects and funding in subsequent TIPs. At a minimum, the citizens, elected and appointed officials will have a locally provided program to express their transportation project concerns. This program will also support the next County-wide Transportation Plan update. The current Transportation Plan in effect for Pender County was approved in 1998.

During the October 6, 2009 Planning Board meeting, the Board expressed support for this concept and is forwarding a favorable recommendation to the County Commission to support the same. Staff is requesting that the County Commission consider supporting and encouraging the concept of creating a transportation planning program. Staff will return to the Commission with more details through coordination and review with the MPO, RPO and Planning Board if the program concept is acceptable.