

January-March 2014

RRRPO NEWS

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TAC Chairman:

Commissioner Lindsey Dunevant
Stanly County

TAC Vice-Chairman:

Commissioner Bobby Usrey
Town of Wadesboro

TCC Chairman:

Gwen Hinson
SCUSA

TCC Vice-Chairman:

Jay Almond
Manager
Town of Badin

Upcoming Meetings:

TCC (staff)

Tuesday, May 13, 2014
Division 10
Albemarle, NC
10-12

TAC (elected)

Thursday, May 22, 2014*
Stanly County Commons
Albemarle, NC
6-8

*Fourth Thursday, instead of third.



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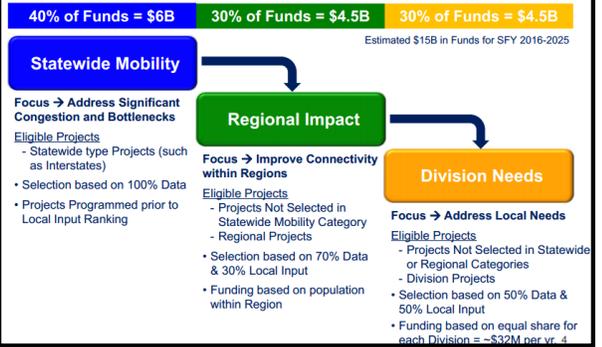
Strategic Transportation Investment (STI)

Update

RRRPO staff has entered existing and new multimodal projects into the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Strategic Office Of Transportation (SPOT) ranking system. This is the first time all transportation modes will compete for one pot of dollars. These modes include: public transportation, rail, highway, aviation, pedestrian and bicycle. NCDOT has released the draft statewide highway scores at <https://connect.ncdot.gov/projects/planning/Pages/ResourcesMPO-RPO.aspx>. The other modes will be scored and NCDOT is scheduled to release the data in late spring.

The RRRPO ranking methodology will be applied to all of our projects and help shape priorities for the region. Ultimately, projects will be funneled through the SPOT system and the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) will be created.

How STI Works

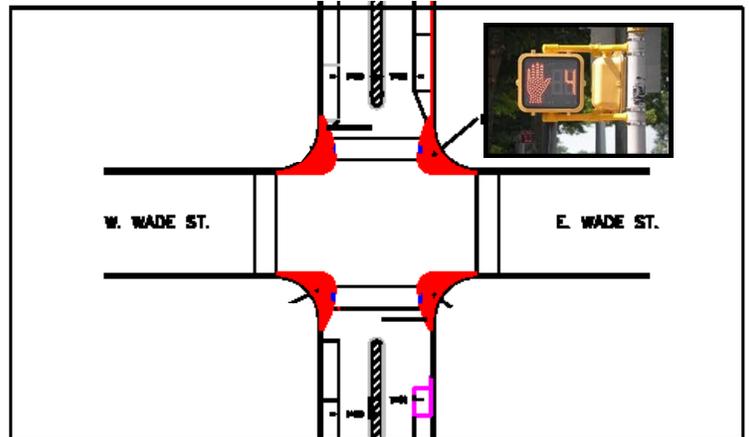


Wadesboro Road Diet

The Town of Wadesboro, Division 10 and RRRPO staff are working together to create a more walkable downtown. A modified **street diet design** will enhance walkability, while slowing down traffic on Greene Street (NC 109). *The Town Council endorsed the project which includes three intersections along Greene Street, Martin Street, Wade Street and Morgan Street.*

Wadesboro's town center is very vibrant with several key governmental functions downtown. The courthouse, library, County offices and post office creates a lot of pedestrian activity throughout the day, which is in direct conflict with traffic flow on Greene Street. Speeding vehicles, especially truck traffic, create an uncomfortable environment for pedestrians.

NCDOT staff is applying for enhancement funding which would cover 100% of the cost.



Martin Street



Wade Street



Morgan Street



Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act

MAP-21

Map-21, a two year bill, was signed into law in by President Obama 2012 and will expire in September of 2014. This bill allots \$105 billion worth of transportation spending. Federal spending accounts for a significant portion of the North Carolina Department of Transportation budget, including:

- 80% of Federal funds for interstates, US routes and bridges (highway)
- 20% of Federal funds for public transportation, bicycling and pedestrian (non-highway)

Creating revenue for transportation funding at the Federal and State levels is a complicated, but, is an important discussion. Gas tax revenues are flat-lining and costs are increasing. This will be an ongoing topic at MPO and RPO meetings across the state.

Funding Dilemma

(Source: TheHill.com)

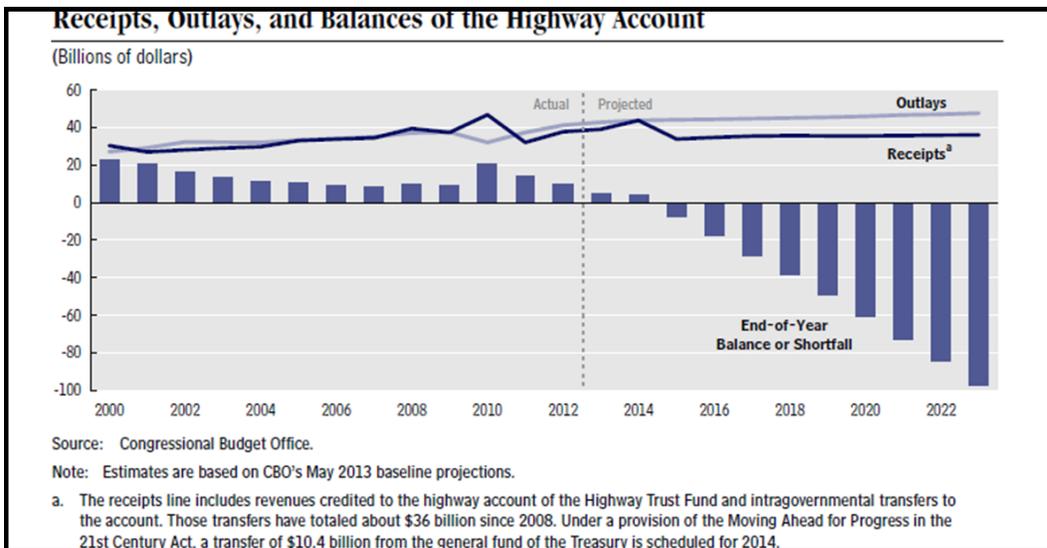
The budget does not make clear how President Obama would pay for a new surface transportation bill.

Transportation advocates have said that the funding that was included in MAP-21 was barely enough to stretch the surface of the nation's road and transit needs, but the measure was funded in large part with a series of one-time trust fund sweeps and fee increases.

The traditional funding mechanism for transportation projects, the 18.4 cents-per-gallon federal gas tax, only brings in approximately \$35 billion per year.

The gas tax collection is expected to get even smaller as cars become more fuel efficient.

U.S. Department of Transportation Budget: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/budget/fy2015/assets/transportation.pdf>



Upcoming Work:

- RPO staff will be working on the Strategic Transportation Investment ranking.
- RPO staff will continue participating in the CCOG Connect process.
- RPO staff will draft Union County Local Coordinated Plan